

Grenada's August Agro-met Summary 2013

Grenada experienced an almost climatologically normal August. We seemed to have been situated in a buffer zone between the synoptic activities of the wider Caribbean to the north and the activities of the south which consist mainly of the I.T.C.Z and the Monsoon trough.

What was quite noticeable was the dry middle layers of the atmosphere of the Caribbean for this time of year. One possible reason could be the strength of the Saharan Air Layer over the eastern and central Atlantic. Also quite noticeable was that Bermuda/Azores high was ridging to the west, north of the island chain rather than through it. This resulted in a generally slack pressure gradient across the region and as a result light winds.

These are some of the facts that contributed to this August been the second driest August on record with only 61.1mm of rainfall. Twelve (12) days were of no significant rainfall, three (3) with more than 5mm. The highest 24hr rainfall was on the 18th, 12.5mm, due to the passage of a tropical wave.

Temperatures were over 30C° daily with the highest max temperature recorded as 32.5C° on the 3th. The month's mean was 31.6C°. Night-time temperatures were comparable with the climatological average. This month's minimum mean was 24.7C°, with the lowest been 23.0C° recorded on the 24th. Of note the highest minimum was 27C°, this occurred on the same day as the highest max, the 3th.

The 2013 Atlantic Hurricane season continued in August. Tropical depression Dorian regenerated to Tropical storm Dorian on the 3rd at 5:00am. This status only lasted a mere 24hours.

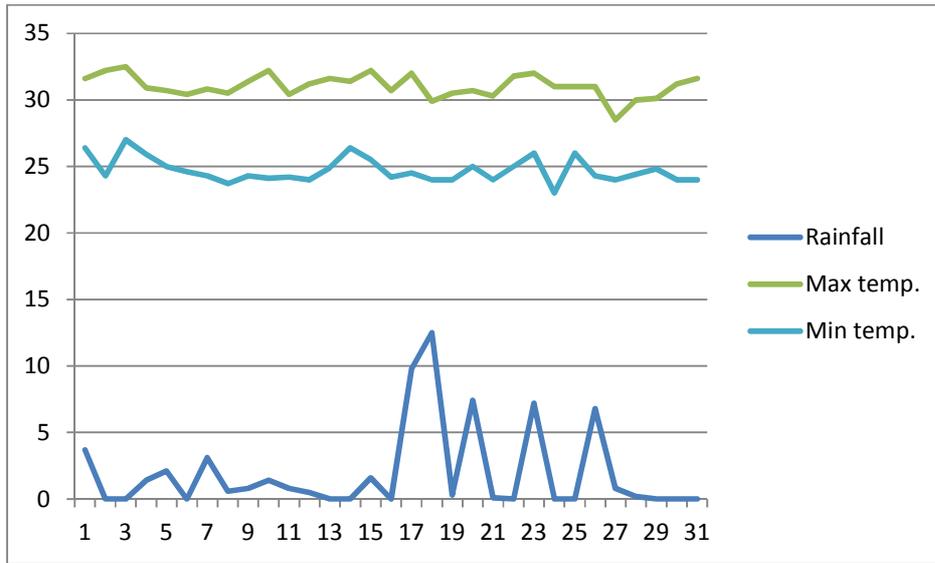
Tropical depression #5 formed in the far Eastern Atlantic on Wednesday 14th at 11: pm. It was subsequently upgraded to Tropical storm Erin on the 15th and dissipated on the 18th at 5:00pm.

On the Sunday 25th Tropical depression #6 came into being in the Gulf of Mexico. It developed into Tropical Storm Fernand the same day. Fernand moved inland over Mexico the next day and dissipated.

None of these cyclones posed any threat to Grenada and its dependencies.

Although there were generally flat seas in August, the month continued the tradition of historically bring a slow fishing month. Catches fell when compared to previous months. The numerous public holidays and festivals are the main contributing factor.

Despite the low rainfall during the month in review, good yields were experienced from some crops. Vegetables short crops for example, cabbages, yielded almost to a glut proportions. Corn and water-melons were available in large quantities. Chinnep reigned supreme while paw-paw vanished.



Prepared by:

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