

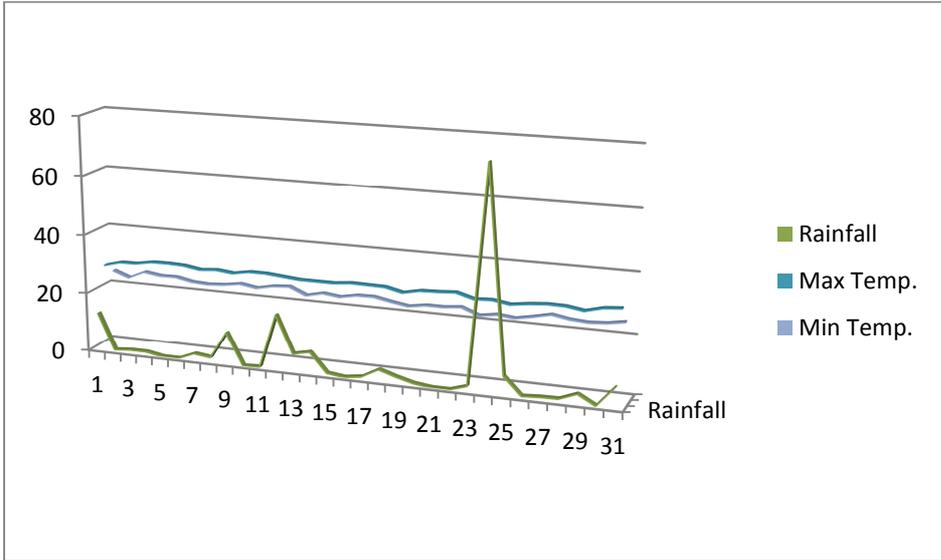
Grenada's December Agro-met Summary 2013

Generally dry and stable air was aloft for most of the month did not allow much cloud growth. The rainfall total was 167.4mm, 65.2mm below the average. Despite this total December was still the wettest month of the year and 2013 was the 4th driest year on record with only 926.6mm. The highest 24hr rainfall period was on the 24th, as an upper level cyclone together with a surface trough combined to dump 74.3mm. Other significant rainfall days were on the 1st when 13.0mm was recorded. On the 12th 18.8mm was measured due to an upper level trough. Strong advection from the South American continent produced 10.9mm on the 9th. There were only 5 days of no or insignificant rainfall occurring this month.

The month's temperatures were kept fairly constant, the highest max recorded was 30.7°C on the 5th, the average being 29.7°C. Meanwhile the lowest minimum temperature reached 21.8°C on the 23rd with the mean being 23.7°C.

The Bermuda/Azores High was probably the most influential feature on the region's weather in the month under review. For more than half the month it measures over 1030mb peaking at 1035mb on the 25th. This resulted in the formation and maintenance of a steep gradient across the Atlantic into the Caribbean Sea. The region was fed with moderate to strong trades which was partly responsible for the moderate temperatures. As a result of these strong trades the meteorological office at the Maurice Bishop Int'l Airport was forced to issue a marine advisory for the tri island state of Grenada Carriacou and Pettie Martinique from the 9th to the 22nd as above normal seas were experienced. Sea bathers and mariners found the coastal and open waters a bit more challenging to negotiate. This also negatively affected our fishing industry as fishermen did not venture out as customary. Even though the month's catch was low it was rather interesting to note the abundance of small fish species and the absence on the larger species.

With conditions that prevailed in December some crops flourished. Some citrus for example mandarins were in large supply. Sorrell had good numbers also just in time for the festive season. Pigeon peas did not reach its full potential yield as much of the crop suffered flower drop due to the constant rain.



Prepared by: Gerard Tamar