

Grenada's Agromet Summary for March 2013

During the month of March Grenada and its dependencies experienced very stable atmospheric conditions. Strong subsidence produced by mid level anticyclones produced fair and sunny conditions through the month. There was a generally steep pressure gradient across the Eastern Caribbean from the Central Atlantic high pressure system to the relatively low over South America. This resulted in continuous moderate to strong trades across the islands.

The subsidence and dry air aloft resulted in low rainfall. Only 3.6mm was recorded at Maurice Bishop Int'l. making it one of the driest Marchs on record. The first ten (10) days of the month produced only 0.2mm, while the highest in 24hr was 1.1m on the 21st. There were twenty (20) rain-free days.

The steady trades kept the island relatively cool and with almost cloudless skies help to maintain an even diurnal range. The average maximum temperature for the month was a moderate 30.3°C. The minimum was a comfortable 24.4°C. The extremes temperatures were maximum 32.5°C on the 13th and 22.8°C recorded on the 19th.

Due to Atlantic high pressure system and several cold fronts a combination of high wind waves and sea swells were of great concern to the general public during the month. The meteorological office at M.B.I.A. was forced to issue marine advisories from the 9th to 15th and on the 26th. The northern and western coastlines were severely hammered by the heavy surf; these conditions adversely affected the fishing industry. Fisher-men were kept at bay due to the less than co-operative seas. The month's catch was significantly reduced.

Carrots, cabbages, lettuce as well as sapodillas were among the crops that were able to weather the conditions and thrive. The citrus crop, on the other hand, diminished quite noticeably both in quantity and quality. Water-melon made quite a strong appearance.

