

Grenada's September 2013 Agro-met Summary

A relatively stable month, that's how one can describe the month of September as all meteorological parameters showed average or below average values.

Rainfall was a mere 78.1mm making this September one of the driest on record. There were thirteen (13) days of no or insignificant rainfall. The highest 24hr rainfall was on the 21st, 13.9mm. The only significant rainfall event of the month occurred from the 13th to the 15th. A middle level trough and the Inter tropical convergence Zone combined to produce 13mm on the 13th and 13.5mm on the 15th. These three of cloudy to overcast conditions produced numerous thunderstorms. One death due to a lightning strike was recorded.

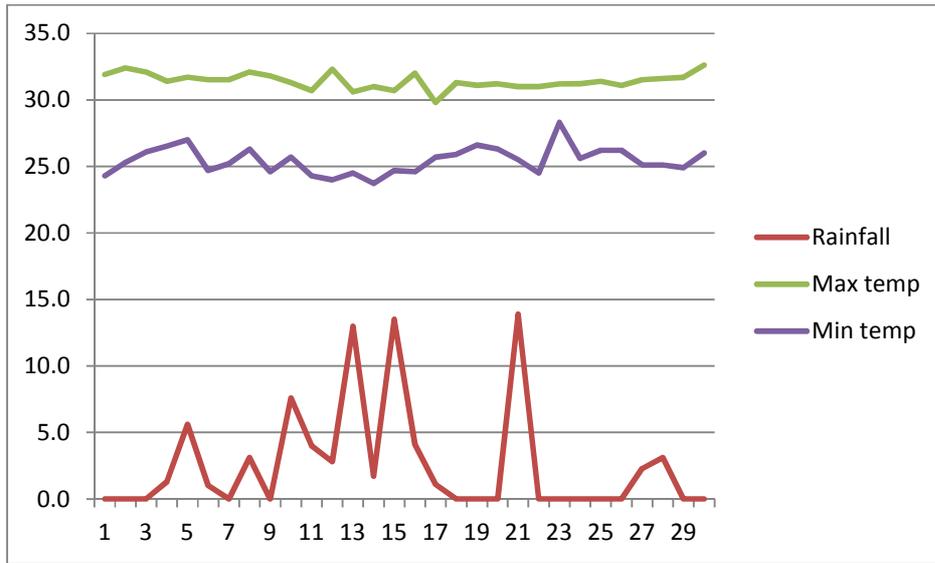
The presence of huge quantities of Sahara dust in the middle Atlantic, suppressed rainfall production in the migrating tropical waves resulting in our low rainfall measurements.

The pressure gradient across the Caribbean and the Central Atlantic was generally "slack" during the month. Winds were constant at 10 to 20mph. This allowed for little mixing and as a result temperatures were fairly high. Thirty-two point six (32.6°C) was the month's highest maximum temperature; this was recorded on the 30th. Many nights were warm with an average minimum temperature of 25.4°C. The highest min temp recorded for the month was 28.3°C on the 23rd, while the lowest was read on the night of the 14th, 23.7°C.

After a very slow start the 2013 Atlantic/Caribbean basin Hurricane season exploded in September. This month saw the formation of five (5) Tropical Depressions; Nos: 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11: Four (4) Tropical Storms namely Gabrielle, Humberto, Jerry & Ingrid. Of these, Humberto and Ingrid developed into hurricanes. None of these cyclones affected our island.

Also noticeable during September were the flat seas. September was the first month that the meteorological office did not have to issue any marine advisories. Good seas and good weather saw an increase in fish production when compared to August which is traditionally a slow month. "Small jacks" (*Scomberomorus*) are still in abundance but more so are the larger fish eg King Fish and Tuna.

With the less than average rainfall came the sudden disappearance of watermelon and a very noticeable reduction in many citruses. On the other hand sugar apple and chennip are still available in large quantities. Ground provisions numbers are also still encouraging.



Prepared by

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