



April 2017 Agro-Met Report



During the month of April Grenada and its dependencies were affected by several natural phenomena.

Low rainfall conditions which existed in previous months continued. Total for the month, as recorded at Point Salines, was a mere 1.2mm, which makes this April the driest April on record and the second driest month on record.(the driest being February 2010- 0.8mm) This month's total was way below the Long term and 30yrs averages which stand at 32.2 & 33.9mm respectively. There were twenty-seven (27) consecutive dry days and only two days of measureable rainfall. The one month Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) read "Excessively dry" while the three month Standard precipitation Index was calculated to be "Abnormally dry". Although rainfall measurements at Point salines were very low, measurements obtained from other stations located in the center and north of the island which are run by the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Water and Sewage Authority (NAWASA) told quite a different story. The major reason for this disparity was due to the effects of two shear lines traversed the Eastern Caribbean reaching as far south as the Grenadines, these produced moderate to heavy showers to the north of the island. Here are some readings.

Bouloungue- 54.2mm

Grand Etang- 56.7mm

Belvidere-42.9mm

Clozier-104.8mm

Mt.Reuil-72mm

Mt.Alexander-34.2mm

As for temperatures, the average maximum temperature was 30.6°C. This is above the Long Term average of 30.4°C and just below the 30yrs average of 30.9°C. The highest max of 31.7°C was recorded on the 1st.

On the other hand the average min was 25.9°C which is above the Long Term Average and the 30yrs Average of 24.3°C and 24.7°C respectively. The month's lowest of 24.7°C occurred on the first.

Our seas were almost in a state of constant agitation caused by either swells generated by mid latitude cyclones or by the strong trades from the



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Bermuda/Azores High and also by sub-tropical cyclone Arlene. Marine advisories of different types were issued for sixteen (16) days. These conditions as to be expected affected the fishing industry significantly as smaller crafts unable to venture out to sea.

The underwater volcano off our northern coast, “Kick ‘em Jenny” recorded increase seismic activity on the 29th. Alert level went to orange. No tsunami was generated. A 5 kilometer exclusion zone was established as a precaution.

The unusual rain fall was welcomed by the farming community. Ground provisions did very well especially in the north. Swivel orange had good yield as most other citruses are just beginning to flower. Red plumes were quite in abundance as well as water lemon. Most mango species are now in flowering mode as well as breadfruit.

