

September 2012, the driest September on record for Dominica

The month of September 2012 has brought with it exceptionally low rainfall amounts this year which has shattered records for the two manned meteorological stations on the island. The Canefield Airport on the south-west coast and the Melville Hall Airport on the north-east coast has been recording data for the past 30 years and 41 years, respectively.

Canefield Airport

September, notably the wettest month at the Canefield station, has been the driest month for 2012 thus far with a rainfall accumulation of 31.9 mm - a mere Thirteen (13) percent of the monthly average total of 253.7 mm. The Canefield station was greeted with a ten- day dry spell which began on the first (01st) and ended on the tenth (10th). The maximum daily total was 18.5mm, which occurred on the 26th during a period when the area was affected by a low level trough. In total, twenty-four (24) dry days were experienced, that is, eleven (11) more days than the mean number of dry days. The month was generally warmer, recording 0.7° Celsius greater than the monthly average which is 29.4°Celsius.

Melville Hall Airport

September total rainfall at Melville Hall was 94.3 mm. This was only thirty percent (30%) of the monthly average total of 319.1mm. The maximum daily total was 41.4mm and occurred on the 17th as a result of the passage of a Tropical wave. There were twenty (20) dry days for the entire month which is twice the average amount. The average daylight temperature for the month was 0.3° Celsius above the mean which is 28.9° Celsius. The maximum temperature of 34.3° Celsius was also a record high for September at Melville Hall.

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