

**Meteorological Department
St. Maarten**

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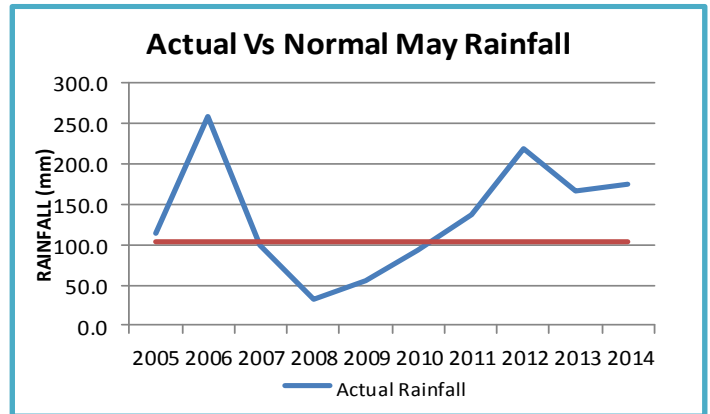
Weather & Climate

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May 2015

NORMAL MAY CONDITIONS

Rainfall Total	56.4 mm – 115.2 mm	2 – 5 in.
Avg. No. of Rain days	10 days	
Daily Average Temperature	27.1°C – 27.7 °C	81 - 82°F
Avg. Max. Temperature	31°C	87 °F
Avg. Min. Temperature	25°C	77°F
Avg. Daily Hours of Sunshine	8 hrs	



We are approaching the hurricane season !.

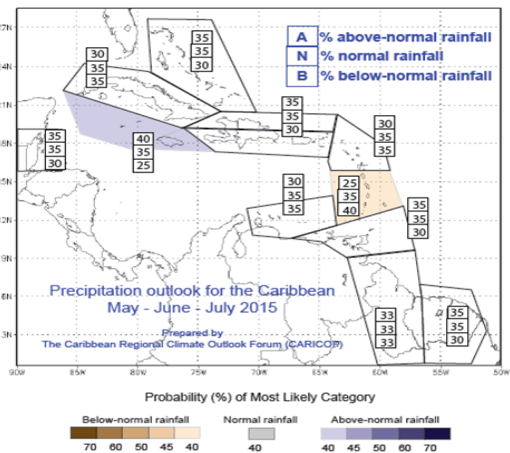
Rainfall for the month of May has been above-normal for 6 out of the last 10 years.

Seasonal Outlook for May to July 2015

According to the Caribbean Outlook Forum : www.cimh.edu.bb/?p=precipoutlook

The precipitation outlook for the season ‘May – July’ is expected to be below-normal to near-normal. Normal rainfall for this season ranges between 194.1—281.1 mm/8 -11in. May & June usually have occasional heavy showers while July often includes a mid-summer dry spell.

Temperature for most of the Caribbean is forecast to be near-normal to above-normal for the same period.



IMPACTS:

This season:

- ◆ The risk of bush fires & heat stress remains during drier periods.
- ◆ Possible risk of vector borne diseases.

Recent observations show that the sea surface temperatures in the Eastern Pacific are 0.5-1°C above average which suggests a weak El Niño. Most models are indicating that temperatures will remain above average and possible further warming into a moderate to strong El Niño by August–October.

El Niño is associated with drier conditions across the Caribbean. Some parts of the Eastern Caribbean are currently under a drought warning.

Please note that all data was recorded at the Princess Juliana International Airport and may not necessarily reflect conditions at other points on country St Maarten.

APRIL 2015 IN REVIEW

Rainfall for the month of April was just about 45% of the normal monthly total. This is the fifth consecutive month that rainfall has been below-normal. The Atlantic High Pressure System was the main influence while the presence of Saharan dust maintained hazy conditions.

Total Rainfall	31.8 mm	1.3 in.
2015 Cumulative Rainfall	106.4 mm	4.2 in.
Max. 24-Hr. Rainfall	Apr. 11th	15.2 mm/ 0.6 in.
No. Rain Days (>=1.0 mm)	7 days	
No. Heavy Rain Days (>=10.0 mm)	1 day	
No. Thunderstorm Days	0 day	
Avg. Wind Speed	9 kts.	10 mph
Max. Wind Gust	Apr. 3rd & 9th	28 kts. / 32 mph
Avg. Temperature	26.6 °C	80 °F
Max. Temperature	Apr. 27th	31.0 °C / 88 °F
Min. Temperature	Apr. 11th	22.1 °C / 72 °F

The temperatures recorded during the month of April varied widely.

The warmest days were the 28th and 30th with an average temperature of 27.9°C/82°F.

The day with the most sunshine hours was the 21st (11hrs :54 min).

The day with the least sunshine hours was the 17th (1 hr: 42min)

The windiest day was the 3rd, with a daily average wind speed of 14 kts. / 16 mph.

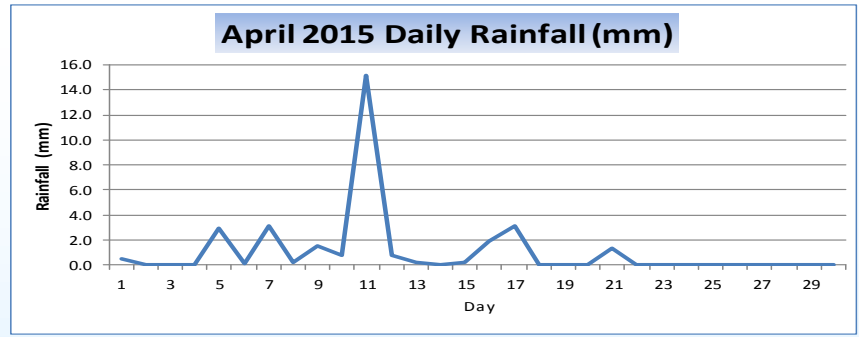
Skies were partly cloudy during the month of March.

For 5 consecutive months rainfall has been below normal!

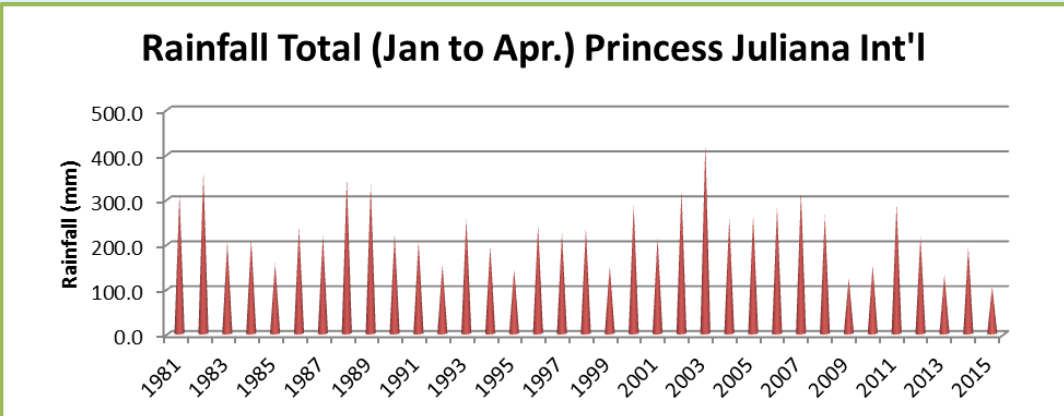
The normal rainfall for April ranges from 41.3–74.9 mm/ 2-3in.

The day with the most rainfall was the 11th with 15.2mm/0.6in.

The longest dry spell during the month of April was 9 days from April 21st to 30th.



Rainfall Deficit



Rainfall total for the first four months of 2015 is 57% below normal.

106.4 mm have been measured so far for the year. This makes it the driest Jan-Apr. since 1968 when 75.1 mm was measured.