

**Meteorological Department
St. Maarten**

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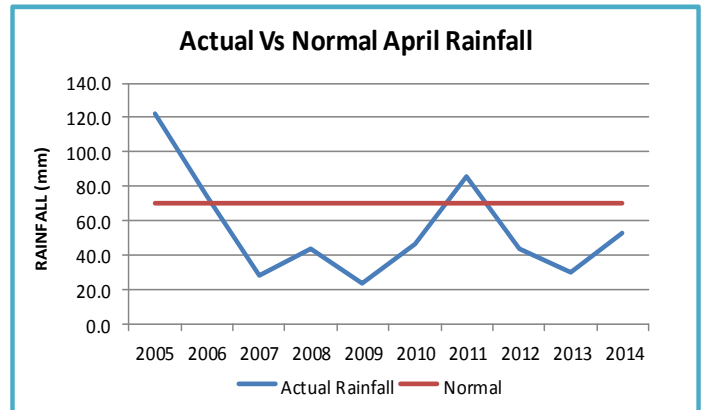
Weather & Climate

Volume 2, Issue 15

April 2015

NORMAL APRIL CONDITIONS

Rainfall Total	41.3 mm – 74.9 mm	2 – 3 in.
Avg. No. of Rain days	8 days	
Daily Average Temperature	26.4°C – 26.9 °C	79–80°F
Avg. Max. Temperature	30°C	86 °F
Avg. Min. Temperature	24°C	76°F
Avg. Daily Hours of Sunshine	9 hrs	



We are in the the dry season !.

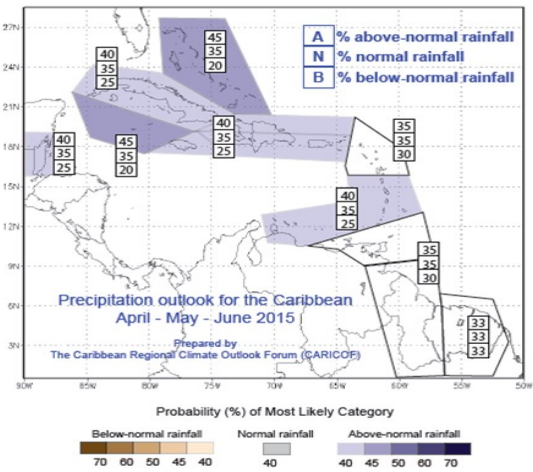
Rainfall for the month of April has been below-normal for 7 out of the last 10 years.

Seasonal Outlook for April to June 2015

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

The precipitation outlook for the season ‘April – June’ is hardly predictable at this time. Normal rainfall for this season ranges between 155.7—253.2 mm/6-10in. April is typically the end of the dry season when heavy rainfall is limited while May & June usually have frequent heavy showers.

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



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

El Nino is associated with drier conditions across the Caribbean. Antigua & Barbuda, Jamaica and S. Haiti are experiencing water shortages.

IMPACTS:

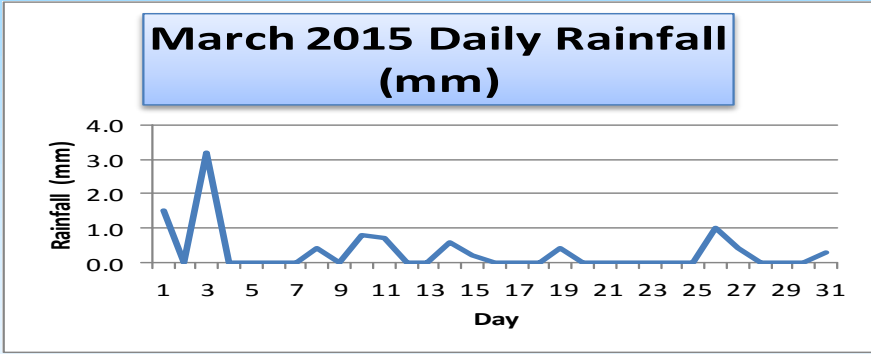
This season:

- ◆ Increase risks of bush fires & heat stress during drier periods.
- ◆ Limited risk of vector borne diseases.

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.

MARCH 2015 IN REVIEW

Rainfall for the month of March was 81% below the normal monthly total. This is the fourth consecutive month that rainfall has been below-normal. This was the driest March in 32 years; March 1983 was 7.0 mm and the driest Jan-Feb-Mar since 1980. The Atlantic High Pressure System was the main influence while the presence of Saharan dust kept the atmosphere very dry.



The normal rainfall for March ranges from 32.4–58.0 mm/ 1-2in.

The day with the most rainfall was the 3rd (3.2mm/0.1in.).

The longest dry spell during the month of March was 22 days from March 4th to 25th.

Total Rainfall	9.5 mm	0.4 in.
2015 Cumulative Rainfall	74.6 mm	2.9 in.
Max. 24-Hr. Rainfall	Mar. 3rd	3.2 mm/ 0.1 in.
No. Rain Days (>=1.0 mm)	3 days	
No. Heavy Rain Days (>=10.0 mm)	0 day	
No. Thunderstorm Days	0 day	
Avg. Wind Speed	11 kts.	13 mph
Max. Wind Gust	Mar. 5th	32 kts. / 37 mph
Avg. Temperature	26.0 °C	79 °F
Max. Temperature	Mar. 30th	29.6 °C / 85 °F
Min. Temperature	Mar. 16th & 17th	22.7 °C / 73 °F

For 4 consecutive months rainfall has been below normal!

The temperatures recorded during the month of March ranged from normal to above-normal.

The warmest day was the 25th with an average temperature of 26.5°C/80°F.

The day with the most sunshine hours was the 23rd (11hrs :06 min).

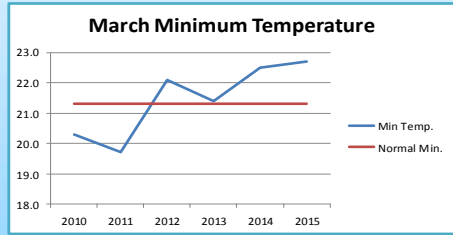
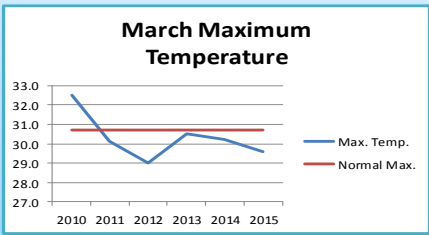
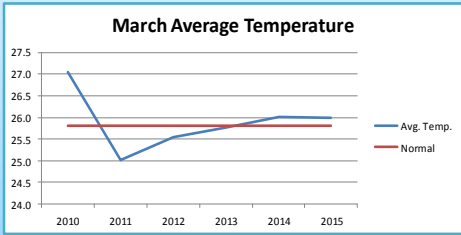
The day with the least sunshine hours was the 11th (7 hr: 12min)

The windiest day was the 10th, with a daily average wind speed of 16 kts. / 18 mph.

Skies were partly cloudy during the month of March.

March Temperature Trends

Normals (1981-2010)



- ◆ March's **daily average temperatures** have varied from below normal to above normal over the past few years.
- ◆ March's **maximum & minimum temperatures** indicate that **the days are not as hot** and **nights are not as cool** as they used to be, over the last 4 years.

This newsletter is produced by the Meteorological Department of St. Maarten. We would appreciate your comments and feedback. Kindly drop us a line at meteo@sintmaartengov.org, fax at (1 721) 545 2998 or call us at (1 721) 545 2024/ 545 4226.