



# NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE MONTHLY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### The National Agriculture & Trade Show will be held on May 2-4, 2014

Come out to learn about agriculture in Belize.

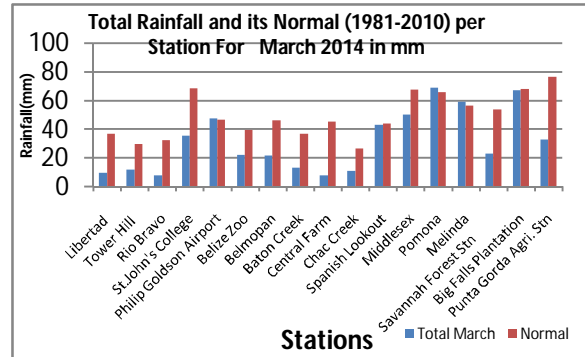


## Weather & Climate Summary for Belize (March 2014).

Climatologically, March is known to be mostly dry and windy, the main influences of weather are:

- (1) Gusty east to south easterly airflow
- (2) The passage of one or two cold fronts and
- (3) Warmer temperatures

March 2014 a total of three cold fronts directly affected Belize, two of these fronts cross the country and the other stalled just over northern Belize. These fronts did not produce any significant amounts of rainfall and as the graph below shows most stations across the country recorded rainfall below their normal.



National Meteorological Service is now using the Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) to monitor the likelihood of drought or extreme rainfall over the country.

The Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI), developed by T.B. McKee, N.J. Doesken, and J.Kleist in 1993, is based only on precipitation. The SPI can be used to monitor conditions on a variety of time scales namely 1--month, 3-months, 6-months, 9-months and 12-months periods.

A positive SPI value means greater than the median precipitation and a negative SPI values indicate less than median precipitation.

The table below shows the SPI Outlook for April-May-June 2014 that was generated using historical rainfall data from Belize and the precipitation outlook for April-May - June. Only April is highlighted below. The rest of the outlook for April-May-June period can be found at [www.hydromet.gov.bz](http://www.hydromet.gov.bz) under drought monitoring.

SPI Outlook for April 2014

| Station    | 1Mth          | 3Mth          | Prob |
|------------|---------------|---------------|------|
| Airport    | 0.47 - 1.9    | 0.07 - 1.58   | 30   |
|            | -0.19 - 0.47  | -0.4 - 0.07   | 35   |
|            | -1.26 - -0.19 | -0.79 - -0.4  | 35   |
| CFarm      | -0.49 - 1.46  | -1.31 - 0.33  | 30   |
|            | -1.18 - -0.49 | -1.76 - -1.31 | 35   |
|            | -1.53 - -1.18 | -2.05 - -1.76 | 35   |
| Melinda    | 0.62 - 1.32   | 0.2 - 0.83    | 30   |
|            | -0.16 - 0.62  | -0.34 - 0.2   | 35   |
|            | -1.32 - -0.16 | -0.76 - -0.34 | 35   |
| Tower Hill | 0.56 - 1.77   | -0.31 - 1.09  | 30   |
|            | -0.46 - 0.56  | -1.25 - -0.31 | 35   |
|            | -1.06 - -0.46 | -1.62 - -1.25 | 35   |

|          |               |               |    |
|----------|---------------|---------------|----|
| Savannah | 0.59 - 2.11   | -0.24 - 1.19  | 30 |
|          | -0.12 - 0.59  | -0.73 - -0.24 | 35 |
|          | -1.42 - -0.12 | -1.25 - -0.73 | 35 |

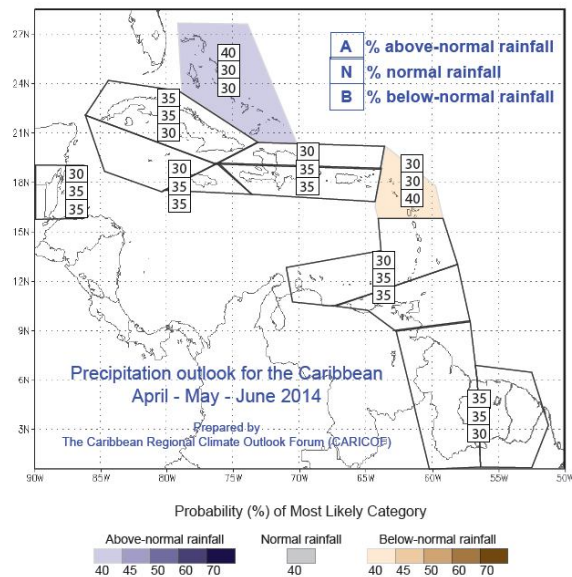
|             |               |               |    |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|----|
| Punta Gorda | 0.48 - 2.02   | 0.39 - 1.62   | 30 |
|             | -0.42 - 0.48  | -0.06 - 0.39  | 35 |
|             | -1.41 - -0.42 | -0.34 - -0.06 | 35 |

Assessment of the Drought conditions in Belize shows that due to the excessive rainfall that occurred in October, November and December of 2013 and also in January of 2014, and the normal to below normal rainfall for February and March 2014 the entire country is not experiencing any sort of Drought. Analysis of the country rainfall showed that most of the country during the past six months received normal to slightly above normal rainfall. Although March was considerably dry for most of the country, the accumulated rainfall did not indicate any sort of drought.

**Seasonal precipitation forecast for April-May-June 2014(AMJ)**

The Seasonal precipitation shows that there is an equal chance for normal to below normal rainfall to prevail during the AMJ period.

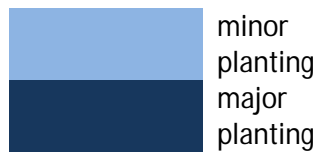
Prepared by The Caribbean Regional Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF)



**Agricultural Information was provided by the Ministry of Agriculture.**

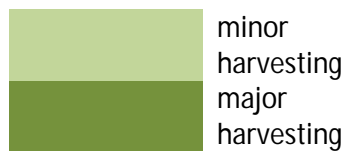
**PLANTING**

| Commodity   | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Carrots     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Lettuce     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Potato      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Broccoli    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Cauliflower |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Onion       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Celery      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Corn        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Bean        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Cabbage     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Tomato      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Sweetpepper |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |



**HARVESTING**

| Commodity   | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Carrots     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Lettuce     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Potato      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Broccoli    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Cauliflower |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Onion       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Celery      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Corn        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Bean        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Cabbage     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Tomato      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Sweetpepper |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |



**Chart Analysis:**

Minor harvesting indicates the start of the planting season for these seasonal crops (highlighted in yellow) - crops that are planted during the colder days of the year and are also short day plants. Major planting is when the highest number of acreage is planted. The planting will correlate with the harvesting period.