

# MONTHLY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

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**Produced: CLIMATE SECTION**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*The National Meteorological Service of Belize is pleased to announce that it will be hosting its Second National Climate Outlook Forum (NCOF) to be held on the 12 June 2014 at the ITVET conference room in Corozal District and on the 13th June 2014 at the University of Belize conference room Central Farm Cayo District. This is a stakeholder's meeting for enhancing the utility of Seasonal Climate Forecast.*

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

Climatologically, May is the transition month from the dry to the wet season. The first two weeks in May are usually dry. In the last two weeks the rains start in the south and work their way towards the north to start the rainy season.

May 2014 was a bit different from the normal. The first few days of May (1st-4th) the passage of a late season Cold Front along with upper level instability resulted in our weather being wet and unstable. A few stations in the first week of the month received rainfall above their Normal. On the 15th a second cold front crossed the country and produced outbreaks of showers and thunderstorms. Moisture increase in the south, gave way to the development of showers and thunderstorms, which was an indication that the rainy season had started. The two frontal systems that affected the country resulted in most areas receiving above normal.

Table below shows the rainfall for the month of May 2014 against the 1981-2010 normal.

## Drought

Assessment of the drought for Belize shows that there is **No Concern for Drought over Belize for the June-July-August 2014 period**. The assessment was done during the Caribbean Regional Climate Outlook Forum that was held in Kingston Jamaica using the Climate Predictability Tool (CPT).

## Seasonal Precipitation Forecast for June-July-August 2014 (JJA)

The Seasonal Precipitation Outlook for June-July-August 2014 shows that the forecast is trending towards Below Normal rainfall for the entire country.

Prepared by The Caribbean Regional Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF)

The main influence for the next season is the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO).

Recent observations: ENSO neutral; sea-surface temperatures (SSTs) warmed to 0.5°C above average in equatorial eastern Pacific (NINO3.4).

Model guidance: a majority indicate upward trend to 0.5-1.5°C above average by SON, initiating an El Niño event potentially as early as MJJ.

Forecast: 67% confidence in El Niño conditions by JJA, 75% confidence in El Niño during SON.

## Notice for Farmers



### What is Citrus Greening?

Huanglongbing (HLB), also known as citrus greening or yellow dragon disease, has been reported to be one of the most serious diseases of citrus. Asian citrus psyllid, *Diaphorina citri*, is the primary vector that transmits a bacteria *Candidatus liberibacter* that causes severe damages to the citrus plants. It is a bacterial disease that greatly reduces production, destroys the economic value of the fruit and kills trees. The HLB-bacteria multiplies within the phloem cells of the plant effectively clogging-up the phloem tubes. Phloem vessels carry organic nutrients such as sugars around to all areas of the plant. Without functioning phloem the trees will die. In areas of the world where HLB-greening is endemic citrus trees decline and die within a few years. The disease presents no threats to the health of people or animals.

OIRSA has launched a campaign against Citrus Greening in Belize. Also the ICDF Taiwan Projects will strengthen the HLB control of citrus with integrated Pest Management and Healthy Plant Production.

### What are the symptoms of HLB.

The most characteristic foliage symptoms are blotchy mottling of leaves and leaf yellowing that may appear on a single leaf, shoot, or branch. Symptoms can be easily confused with signs of micronutrient deficiencies. Other symptoms include twig dieback, poor flowering, and stunted growth. Fruit are small and misshapen.

For more information contact: OIRSA (Tel: 501-822-0521) or BAHA at (Tel:501-824-4899).

**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												



Explain the chart

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.