



## HIGHLIGHTS FOR APRIL

- ✚ Stations in all thirteen parishes received below-normal rainfall.
- ✚ Seven (7) of thirteen (13) parishes recorded meteorological drought.
- ✚ Below-normal to near-normal rainfall is forecast for the island, for May to July.
- ✚ Above-normal temperatures are still expected for the next three months.

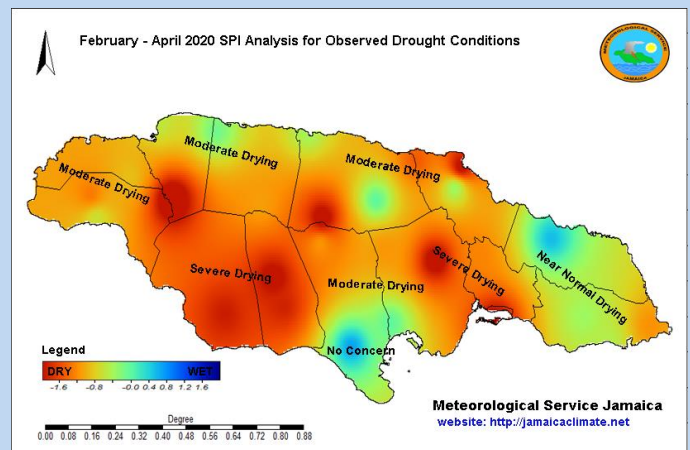
## SUMMARY

Nearly all stations in the 13 parishes received below-normal rainfall in April. Varying levels of dryness was observed across the island with severely dry conditions being observed in St. Elizabeth, Manchester and sections of St. Catherine and Kingston & St. Andrew (KSA). Below-normal to near-normal rainfall is expected for Jamaica for the transition from the early wet season (May-June) to the mid-summer dry period (July) and this could exacerbate drying conditions in several parishes across the island.

### What Happened: February – April 2020

Based on analysis done (image to the right) varying levels of dryness were observed across the island, with severely dry conditions being experienced in southern St. James, St. Elizabeth, Manchester, sections of St. Catherine and into Kingston & St. Andrew (KSA). Moderately dry conditions were observed in sections of Hanover, Westmoreland, northern Clarendon, St. Mary and St. Ann. There was no concern for farming communities in extreme southern Clarendon and western Portland which experienced mild levels of wetness. Warmer than normal temperatures, ranging from 1-4 °C were recorded in some areas across the island for the month of April 2020, when compared to April 2019.

### Wet and Dry Conditions, February-April 2020



Read more by visiting our website:  
<https://www.jamaicacclimate.net/farmers-bulletin>

**ABOUT US:** This report provides short term precipitation forecasts, as well as drought monitoring products that will assist in making critical decisions about the growing season for crops, as well as irrigation scheduling and water management.

# AGROMET BULLETIN



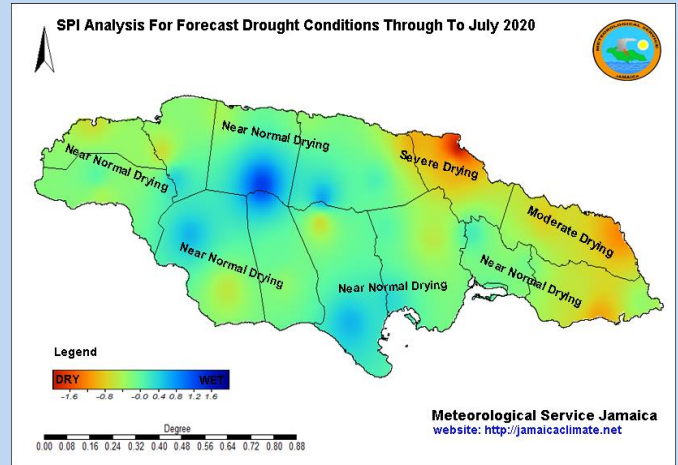
## Seasonal Forecast: May – July 2020

For the period of May to July 2020, rainfall amounts are likely to be below-normal to near-normal, during the transition from the early wet season to the mid-summer dry period. Based on the projections, there is a possibility that some levels of drying could continue and/or return to many areas in several parishes, especially those in the east and west of the island. The expectations are that sections of Trelawny, and some bordering areas in other parishes comprising the Cockpit Country, could benefit the most from the rainfall over the next three months. Temperatures for the May to July period are likely to be above-normal during the early months of the Northern Hemisphere's Summer.

### Possible Impacts

The forecast for below-normal to near-normal rainfall could present a challenge for the availability of water in farming communities currently being impacted by dry/drought conditions. These conditions could therefore, be exacerbated across the island. Mild levels of wetness could continue in southern Trelawny and in particular the Cockpit Country region. As the Meteorological Service continues to monitor drought conditions across the island, the advice is for stakeholders, in particular farmers, is to continue employing irrigation, along with, methods of retaining soil moisture. The forecast for warmer than normal temperatures could cause heat stress impacts; therefore, cooling solutions for livestock and other animals should be continued.

## Wet and Dry Conditions, May – July 2020



## Seasonal Outlook, May - July 2020

JAMAICA	Below %	Normal %	Above %
<b>Rainfall Outlook</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Temperature Outlook</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>50</b>

## CONTACT US:

Meteorological Service, Jamaica, 65 ¾ Half Way Tree Road, Kingston 10

Telephone: 876-929-3700 / 876-929-3706, Email: [datarequest@metservice.gov.jm](mailto:datarequest@metservice.gov.jm)