



10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin

Department of Meteorological Services



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Season: 2005/2006

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Hot weather with isolated thunderstorms experienced over Malawi...
- Land preparation and farm input mobilization remained major activities...
- Prospects favourable for isolated rainfall during 1 – 10 November 2005...

1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

During the last dekad of October a weak convergence passed over Malawi giving rise to isolated thunderstorms over some parts of the country. A few places mainly over southern highlands reported rainfall. These include Satemwa 18.5mm, Makoka 13.7mm, Chikangawa 8.3mm, Bvumbwe 7.9mm, Thyolo 6.6mm, Zomba RTC 5.3mm and 4mm was reported at Chancellor College.

Rainfall is expected to continue being erratic until the main rain bearing systems are established over the country.

. MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

The country continued to experience hot temperatures during the dekad under review. However very hot (above 36°C) temperatures were registered in the lower Shire Valley where Ngabu reported a ten day mean (average) maximum temperature of 41°C. Mean minimum temperatures indicate that morning temperatures were mild to warm in most parts of the country.

. MEAN DAILY WIND SPEEDS

Wind speeds observed at a height of two meters across the country ranged between 1 and 5 metres per second or 3.6–18.0 Km/hr (see table). Chitipa maintained its record of highest wind speeds of 4.8 m/s.

. MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Daily average relative humidity values during the third ten days of October 2005 ranged between 38% at Bolero and Mzimba, and 59% at Bvumbwe and Mzuzu (see table). This means the atmosphere over the country remained fairly dry.

. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Land preparation and procurement of farm inputs and equipment continued to be the major agricultural activities in Malawi in readiness for the main rains.

. PROSPECTS OF / SEASON

According to 2005/06 seasonal rainfall outlook issued by the Department on 14th September 2005, a greater part of Malawi is likely to experience normal total rainfall amounts this season. However, fewer areas are anticipated to receive either below normal or above normal rainfall amounts during the period.

. OUTLOOK FOR – NOVEMBER

Meanwhile pressure systems indicate favourable conditions for isolated rains over the country during the period 1 –10 November 2005.

**TABLE FOR AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS FOR THE PERIOD
21 – 31 OCTOBER 2005**

| STATION | MAX TEMP (°C) | MIN TEMP (°C) | ABS MAX (°C) | ABS MIN (°C) | WIND SPEED m/s | RH % |
|------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------|
| BVUMBWE | 29.3 | 15.7 | 33.1 | 12.6 | 2.4 | 59 |
| BOLERO | 29.2 | 18.8 | 36.7 | 15.8 | 1.7 | 38 |
| CHICHIRI | 29.4 | 16.9 | 34.0 | 13.0 | 1.2 | 52 |
| CHILEKA | 31.8 | 20.0 | 36.2 | 18.0 | 3.9 | 52 |
| CHITEDZE | 30.9 | 16.4 | 34.7 | 14.2 | 1.4 | 43 |
| CHITIPA | 31.9 | 15.9 | 33.8 | 15.3 | 4.8 | 43 |
| KASUNGU | 31.1 | 18.4 | 35.1 | 16.0 | 3.2 | 45 |
| KARONGA | 34.2 | 22.1 | 35.7 | 21.3 | 2.7 | 48 |
| K I A | 29.7 | 15.9 | 33.4 | 14.2 | 2.3 | 49 |
| MAKOKA | 30.0 | 17.5 | 33.2 | 14.2 | 1.9 | 53 |
| MANGOCHI | 34.1 | 21.6 | 36.5 | 20.0 | 2.7 | 48 |
| MIMOSA | 33.3 | 17.6 | 37.5 | 12.7 | 2.0 | 53 |
| MONKEY BAY | 33.5 | 23.2 | 35.8 | 21.0 | 3.1 | 48 |
| MZIMBA | 29.3 | 18.7 | 34.2 | 15.6 | 2.0 | 38 |
| MZUZU | 28.6 | 13.6 | 33.3 | 10.6 | 2.3 | 59 |
| NGABU | 40.6 | 25.9 | 42.0 | 20.0 | N/A | N/A |
| SALIMA | 32.9 | 22.7 | 35.2 | 19.6 | 3.8 | 49 |

Glossary of some terms on this table

- RH = Relative Humidity
- Mean Temperature of the day =(Max of the day + Min of the same day)/2
- ABS Max (Min) = Absolute Maximum (minimum) is the highest (lowest) of maximum (minimum) temperatures observed for a given number of days (calendar month) of a specified period of months (years).
- To convert Meters Per Second (mps) to Kilometers per hour (Km/hr) = mpsx3.6