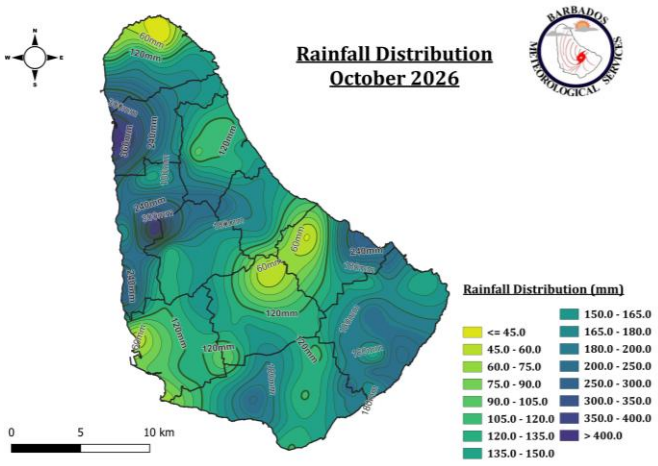
BMS MONTHLY CLIMATE OUTLOOK NEWSLETTER
October 2026 | Issue No.81

Key Messages: Below to Near average rainfall is expected until early in 2027. **The Hydrological Drought Warning has been extended into 2027. Agricultural Drought watches and warning will likely be issued in the coming months. Warmer-than-normal nighttime temperatures are expected to persist** into 2027. Strong to very strong El Niño conditions are present and are expected to be very strong through to early 2027. Persons are urged to adhere to the guidance of all relevant agencies and to continue monitoring the BMS forecast and seasonal outlooks for updates.

OCTOBER IN REVIEW

Precipitation

Figure 1: October Rainfall Distribution



As expected, October has been the wettest month of the year, with a series of upper-level troughs bringing relief from the prolonged dry spells experienced thus far this wet season. These features provided enough support through the month for areas of low-level convergence and instability to produce consistent shower activity. This pattern generated enough activity to require Flash Flood Watches and Warnings to be issued on the 4th, 5th, 23rd and 25th. On the 22nd, localised activity over western districts prompted the issuance of a Flash Flood warning and a Severe Thunderstorm Watch.

For the third month this year rainfall was 1.9 mm above average at 181.5mm, ranging between 41 mm and 430.4 mm across the island.

Temperature

Figure 2: October Average Maximum Temperature

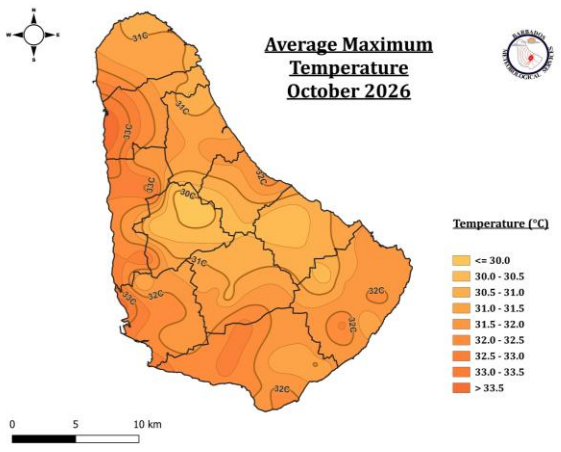


Figure 3: October Minimum Temperature Distribution

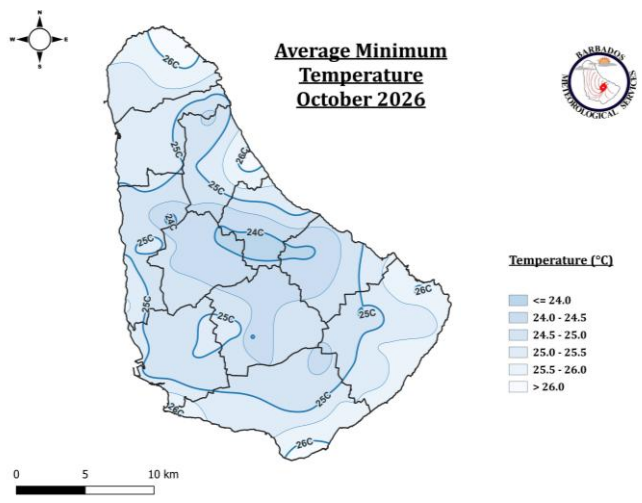
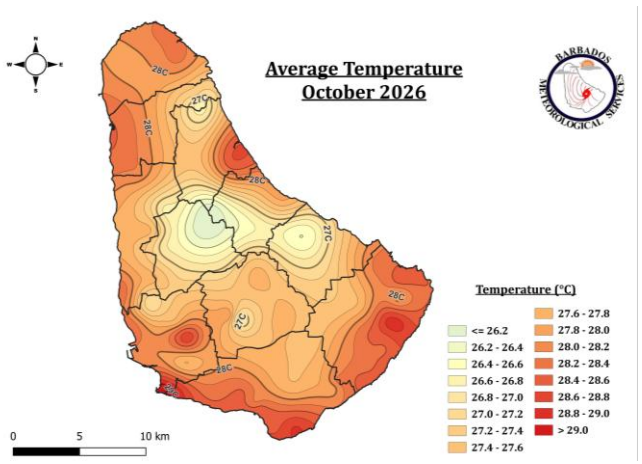


Figure 4: October Average Temperature Distribution



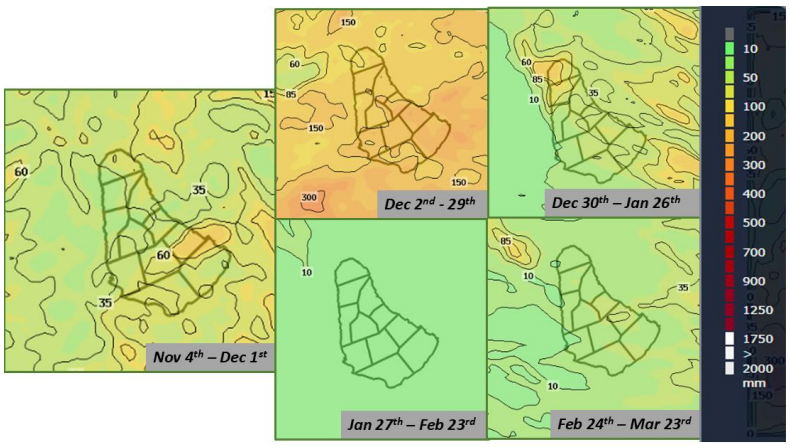
As we enter the cool season, we continue to see daytime temperatures on par with climatology ranging between 26.1°C and 29.2°C (figure 4); across the island, and peaking between 30.2°C and 34.4°C (figure 2). When compared to climatology the average daytime and max temperatures were 0.2°C above average. Of greater significance were the nighttime temperatures (figure 3) which remained ~2.0°C above climatology and peaking between 25°C and 28.5°C across the island.

Based on the data from our synoptic station, no hot spells or heat waves were recorded. However, nighttime temperatures were in the top 5% of our records for 15 days this month.

BMS MONTHLY CLIMATE OUTLOOK NEWSLETTER
October 2026 | Issue No.81

PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK

Figure 5: BMS Climate rainfall forecast from November 2026 to March 2027



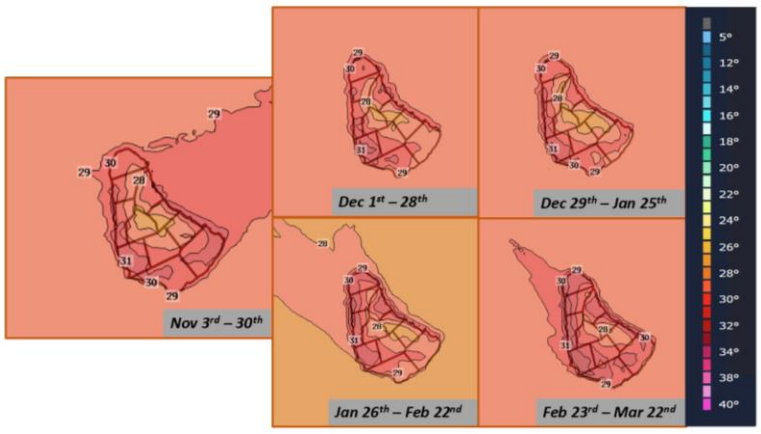
Although a wet end to 2026 is possible, the influence of a very strong El Niño will likely persist into 2027. The latest global climate models along with the BMS Climate model (figure 5) suggest a relatively wet end to 2026 and a wetter than typical January 2027 and is likely due to the persistence of trough systems and higher Atlantic SSTs. However, the confidence is lower in this cycle, given that the very strong El Niño will likely be at its peak. The official forecast is as follows: below to near average rainfall for November; equal chances of below, near and above average rainfall for December; near to above average for January; and below average rainfall for the remainder of the forecast period. Members of the public are urged to adhere to the guidance and recommendations provided by all relevant agencies and to continue closely monitoring the BMS for updates to all forecast and outlooks.

Month	Projections (mm)	Deviation from 30-yr Average at Charnocks
November	120-170	Below to Near Average
December	60-150	Equal chances of Below, Near and Above Average
January	60-100	Near to Above Average
February	5-10	Below Average
March	10-20	Below Average

Table 1: Rainfall Projections for November 2026 to March 2027

TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK

Figure 6: BMS Climate peak temperature forecast from November 2026 to March 2027



Although the cool season is expected to begin around December, warmer than average temperatures will likely persist into 2027. The latest probabilistic and dynamic model forecast continues to favour above-average temperatures for the entire forecast period (table 2). The BMS Climate model (Figure 6) continues to show that daytime temperatures should peak around 32°C in the higher elevations and between 32°C and 34°C in the more populated, urban and south-western districts until November. Although the BMS Climate models show that some isolated urban areas peaking around 31°C thereafter, the official forecast did go a bit cooler and daytime temperatures should peak between 28°C and 30°C. The Daily weather as well as seasonal outlooks should be closely monitored for updates.

Temperature	Season	Forecast Probability (%)		
		Below	Normal	Above
Minimum Temperature	**NDJ**	1	6	93
	FMA	1	4	95
Maximum Temperature	**NDJ**	9	15	76
	FMA	2	8	90
Mean Temperature	**NDJ**	4	3	93
	FMA	1	4	95

Table 2: Temperature Outlook for November 2026 to April 2027

DROUGHT OUTLOOK

The concerns for Drought remain elevated despite an increase in rainfall in October when compared to the previous months. Given that El Niño will likely be at its peak and the current precipitation outlooks**, an agricultural drought watch will likely be issued for January** and an **agricultural drought warning will likely be issued thereafter**. Given the current state of available water resources, as reported by the BWA and the current rainfall outlooks, **the Hydrological Drought Warning remains in effect until March 2027**. Members of the public are urged to continue to conserve water, regardless of the drought alert level and to monitor the BWA, BMS and other local agencies for updates. Below is a table of the forecast drought alert levels based on the forecast rainfall accumulations (Table 3).

Table 3: Drought Outlooks for November to March 2026

MONTH	AGRICULTURAL	HYDROLOGICAL
NOVEMBER	Be Aware	Drought Warning
DECEMBER	Be Aware	Drought Warning
JANUARY	Drought Watch	Drought Warning
FEBRUARY	Drought Warning	Drought Warning
MARCH	Drought Warning	Drought Warning

Disclaimer: Drought alert levels are collaborative effort between the BMS, BWA and Ministry of Agriculture; the BMS offers guidance on rainfall and the other agencies make assessment based of the state of the resources under their responsibility.

BMS MONTHLY CLIMATE OUTLOOK NEWSLETTER
October 2026 | Issue No.81

Be aware for the Possibility of an Agricultural Drought

Responses to the predicted Drought Alert Level.

Key Messages:

- *Monitor resources*
- *Prepare the infrastructure for the possibility of drought*
- *Prepare for the possibility of increased irrigation during periods of extensive dryness*

✓ ***Continue to monitor for updates from the Barbados Water Authority and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security.***

✓ ***Continue to monitor the BMS Climate Outlook for monthly updates.***

Hydrological Drought Warning

Responses to the predicted Drought Alert Level.

Key Messages:

- Protect resources
- Implement management plans
- Response training
- Monitor and repair infrastructure

✓ ***Continue to monitor for updates from the Barbados Water Authority.***

✓ ***Continue to monitor the BMS Climate Outlook for monthly updates.***

Likely Impacts for the November 2026 to April 2027 Period

What do these forecasts mean for Barbados?

- Slow recharge in reservoir/aquifer levels.
- Prolonged dry spells.
- Employ rainwater harvesting techniques
- Use irrigation systems during dry spells.
- No more than usual intense rainfall events that could lead to flash-flooding.
- Uncomfortable temperatures, with recurrent periods of heat stress, until November.
- Increased demand for cooling and hydration.
- Periods of heat stress in farm animals and pets, until November.
- Air quality may be impacted by periodic intrusions of Saharan dust and bush fires.
- Adhere to the advice from all the relevant agencies.
- Keep updated with daily weather forecast and seasonal outlooks issued by the BMS.

CLIMATE OUTLOOK

ENSO (El Niño Southern Oscillation)

ENSO is the interaction between the ocean and atmosphere in the equatorial Pacific which results in periodic departures from the expected sea surface temperatures. There are two phases of ENSO, the cold phase of sea surface temperatures, La Niña and the warm phase, El Niño. La Niña conditions usually results in higher rainfall for Barbados. El Niño conditions usually result in lower rainfall for the island. Neutral conditions which are close to average or what is normally expected. These are the general conditions associated with each phase however, there are other factors which influence the rainfall patterns across Barbados which may result in a deviation from the norm.

Current state

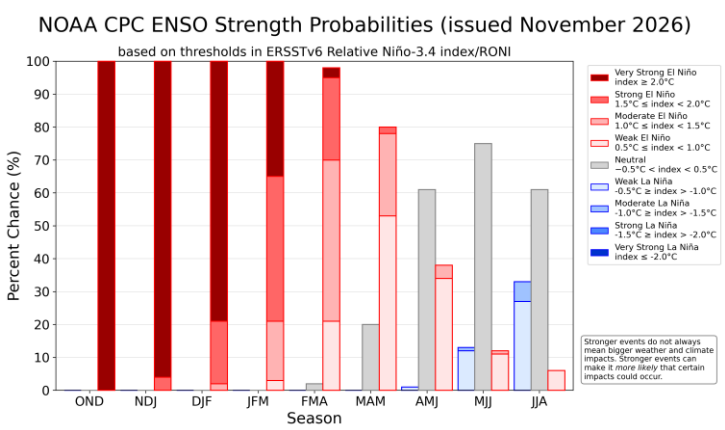
Very strong El Nino conditions are present across the Pacific Ocean.

What's the Outlook?

Very strong El Niño conditions are expected to persist until April 2027.

Impact to the Upcoming Seasons

El Niño conditions tend to favour a decrease in rainfall and higher temperatures across Barbados. As for the hurricane season; there are typically less Atlantic hurricanes during El Nino events.



Source: NOAA CPC/ENSO Strength Probabilities

BMS MONTHLY CLIMATE OUTLOOK NEWSLETTER
October 2026 | Issue No.81

CLIMATE OUTLOOK

Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs)

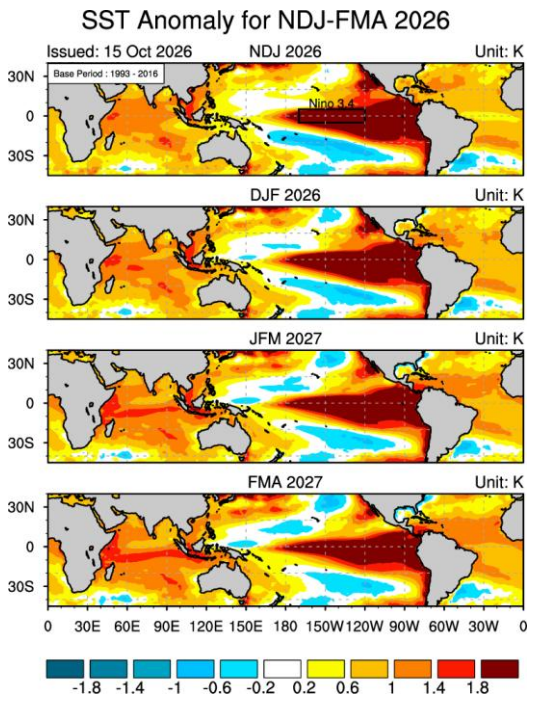
The Multi-Model Ensemble continues to suggest that above-normal sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are expected across the tropical Atlantic. SSTs are forecast to be above normal by 1.0°C to 1.4°C through to April 2027. Across the eastern and central equatorial Pacific, very strong El Niño conditions are expected to persist with SSTs remaining above the climatological average by more than 1.8°C for the entire forecast period.

Impact on Rainfall

While SSTs in the Atlantic remain above-normal, the low range is not expected to have a significant impact on rainfall. El Niño means that a below average rainfall will likely persist for the remainder of the Wet season and into the Dry season.

Impact on Temperatures

Warmer-than-normal SSTs across the tropical Atlantic along with a strong to very strong El Niño event, will contribute to warmer-than-normal temperatures for the entire forecast period. However, recurrent periods of heat stress will persist until around November, when the heat season is expected to end.



(Source: APCC/ Climate Information Services)

2026 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON OUTLOOK

Forecasts for the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane season from Colorado State University and Tropical Storm Risk indicate a near normal activity for the Hurricane Season. Meanwhile, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts a higher probability for **below normal activity** in the Atlantic basin, given their forecast for the El Niño conditions to intensify during the Hurricane Season. Although the Atlantic waters are likely to be slightly warmer than normal and trade winds slightly weaker, (which favours hurricane development), it is expected that the El Niño will dominate. The Barbados Meteorological Services has also produced a forecast, a hybrid statistical and deterministic product to predict the activity in the Eastern Atlantic (bounded by 10°W – 65°W, 5°N – 20°N). The below table summarizes these forecasts as compared to Atlantic hurricane season Climatology.

Table 3: 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season Forecast compared to Atlantic Hurricane Season

	Atlantic Basin Climatology (1991-2020)	Cumulative Forecast Ranges for 2026 Hurricane Season	BMS 2026 Eastern Atlantic Outlook	Observed Tropical Cyclones in the Atlantic (31st October)	Observed Tropical Cyclones in the Eastern Atlantic (31st October)
Named Storms	14	8 - 20	5-7	10	2
Hurricanes	7	3 - 9	2-3	1	0
Major Hurricanes (Category 3 and above)	3	1 - 4	1-2	1	0

Date Issued: 17-11-2026

Editors: **Mr. Christophe Martin** (Meteorologist), **Mr. Don Layne** (Senior Meteorological Assistant), **Ms. Cherise Brathwaite** (Meteorologist), **Ms. Danielle Nurse** (Meteorologist), **Ms. Marlene Arthur** (Meteorological Assistant), **Mr. Keoni Williams** (Meteorological Assistant Ag)

For more information, contact the Barbados Meteorological Services at
BCAA Building Charnocks Christ Church
Tel: 535-0023|Fax: 535-0029|Email: climateservices.bms@barbados.gov.bb

CONTRIBUTORS: