

VANUATU AgroMet Bulletin

Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-Hazards Department Department of Agriculture & Rural Development



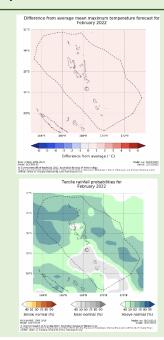
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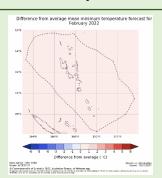
CURRENT ENSO STATUS



La Niña continues in the tropical Pacific including Vanuatu, and will likely continue until January to March 2022. La Niña typically brings above normal rainfall in Vanuatu.

Temperature and Rainfall Outlook for February 2022:

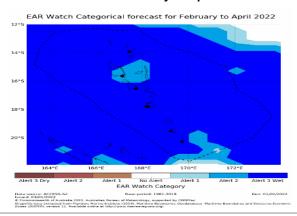




Summary:

- Vanuatu is expecting warmer than average day and night time temperature in February.
- Above normal rainfall is expected over the northern part of the country in February with 50% to 70% chances for these forecast to happen.

Outlook for February to April 2022:



The three month rainfall outlook for the full period of February to April 2022 shows Alert 3 Wet is in place for most of the country. This means there is a high chance for above normal rainfall to be experienced during these months.

Highest and Lowest Tides for January to March 2022

Luganville Harbour						Port Vila Harbour					
Lowest Tide	Date	Time (VUT)	Highest Tide	Date	Time (VUT)	Lowest Tide	Date	Time (VUT)	Highest Tide	Date	Time (VUT)
0.07 m	3 Jan	11:53 pm	1.92 m	2 Jan	04:11 pm	0.08 m	4 Jan	12:38 am	1.62 m	2 Jan	04:51 pm
0.07 m	1 Feb	11:38 pm	1.88 m	1 Feb	04:52 pm	0.13 m	2 Feb	12:26 am	1.59 m	1 Feb	05:35 pm
0.12 m	1 Mar	10:38 pm	1.79 m	2 Mar	04:41 pm	0.21 m	1 Mar	11:24 pm	1.52 m	2 Mar	05:29 pm

Moon Phases for January to March 2022

New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon O	Last Quarter				
3 January	10 January	18 January	26 January				
1 February	9 February	17 February	24 February				
3 March	10 March	18 March	25 March				

Climate Smart Recommendations for crop cultivation

	Crop (variety) Selection						
Vegeta bles	Depending on market and demand, and availability of seeds and seedlings. Select varieties that can perform well in Hot and wet season (January to April) e.g. Corn, cucumber, capsicum, snake beans						
Island Taro	☐ Select Varieties with higher demand and market and available planting material (Available varieties: Sakius, Tarapatan, Alkat) and other recommended varieties from your site, village or island.						
Manioc	☐ Consider growing varieties depending on target market and demand, and available planting materials. Grow dwarf varieties due to cyclone season						
Yam	☐ Depending on target market and demand, and available planting material . Select disease resistant varieties (anthracnose) for planting during this season.						
Kumala	☐Depending on target market and demand, and available planting material (Available varieties: Baby kumala, PNG, bankis, Epule 1, Fanafo, salili and kumala hybrids)						
	Planting						
Vegeta-b es	☐ Select healthy seeds and seedlings before planting. Avoid transplanting of seedlings during sunny mid days or during heavy rain. Consider weekly/daily weather updates through media (FB, radio etc.) to sow seeds and transplant vegetables. Traditional weather forecasting are also advice to use						
Island Taro	☐ Select good type of planting material from healthy plants and free from pest and diseases, good size to produce good corm shape, large suckers or headset have rapid early growth and higher survival rate.						
Manioc	☐ Select healthy stalks which are free from pest and diseases. It is best to collect stalks just after harvested and not sprouted, because sprouting before planting will weaken the ability of stalks to grow after the stalk is cut and planted. It is best to collect the middle part of the stalk as planting material and it sprout faster during wet conditions						
Yam	☐ Select tubers with minimum rot; Trim any rot from tubers before cutting it up into planting pieces. Yam is not a shade tolerant plant, it is a light loving and shade sensitive plant thus require sites that are well exposed to sunlight; Staking should be low (1m height).						
Kumala	□It is best to select cuttings from the tip of the vine about 30cm to 40cm length and which are free from Pest and diseases; collect cuttings from young plants which are 2 to 3 months of age. Avoid planting materials with leaf scab disease and also do not collect planting materials from plants with little leaf disease. Kumala are also light loving crop and prefer sites that are expose to good sunlight.						
	[Farm Management (nutrient/pest/weed)]						
Vegeta- bles	☐ Monitor/control insect pest and diseases attack during the growth stage of the crops; Plant repellent crops/plants to reduce pest and disease attack; Remove infected plants and apply intercropping; Apply weeding as needed and it can be done 2-3 weeks after planting; apply drainage to reduce flooding.						
Island Taro	Monitor disease symptoms and insect pests (e.g. Taro beetle, caterpillar and aphids infestation on leaves) during every farm visit; apply weeding every 2-3 weeks for up to 4 months; Apply mulching when needed using organic materials (vetiver grass) to help reduce weed growth and add organic matter to the soil; Apply intercropping system to reduce Pest and disease attack to plants, apply agroforestry system. Apply drainage since continuous rainfall will cause small size tubers and bad taste.						
Manioc	☐ Monitor weed growth and weed as needed, first weeding can be done after 3-4 weeks after planting; Control major Pest such as Rat after tuber formation; Remove infected plants and apply intercropping system						
Yam	☐Weeding can be applied at least 2 or 3 times during the growth cycle, depending on the weeds present in the field. Monitor leaf eating beetles during the early growth stage of yam and apply cultural practices as needed to control the beetles. Monitor vine growth and adjust to staking accordingly						
Kumala	☐ Monitor weed growth and weed as needed; Weeding will usually be every 2 weeks for up to 5-6 weeks by when the runners have covered the space between rows. Mounding should be done 2 weeks and 1 month after planting to reduce damage on stem and tubers by the weevil and rat.						

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