



The Seasonal forecast of Thailand during the Rainy Season of 2018

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The rainy season of Thailand this year is expected to start around the end of the third week of May 2018 and will end at about middle October. The total rain of this rainy season will be less than normal 5 – 10% and less than that of last year (the total rain of last year was above normal around 20%). For the early rainy season (middle May until June), the total rain will be near normal; except for northern and northeastern parts, the total rain will be above normal 5-10%. While during middle rainy season (July till August), the total rain will be near normal; whereas during late rainy season (September till middle October), the total rain will be below normal about 5-10%.

In August and September as the most densely abundant rain months, tropical cyclones favor a high chance to move near or pass the Upper Thailand causing heavy to very heavy rain to happen in Thailand for many areas. As a result, overflowing from flash flood will inundate at some areas.

General Weather Characteristics:

Since middle May until late June, more rain will appear in Thailand continuously with rainfall distribution as 40 – 60% of the area together with heavy rain occurs at many areas and very heavy rain at some areas; except for the eastern part and the Southern Thailand (west coast), rainfall distribution is 60 – 80% of the area together with heavy to very rain occurs at many areas. In other words, rather active southwest monsoon will prevail over the Andaman Sea and Thailand for almost all of this period. Moreover, some low-pressure air mass cells may develop at the Andaman Sea in May and strengthen to become depressions, tropical storms or cyclones. They will move closer to the western side of Thailand. Besides, a monsoon trough will place over the Upper Thailand at some periods.

Furthermore, during late June until early July, the amount and distribution of rain will lessen. Thus, the dry spell period will occur causing water shortage for agricultural consumption at some areas, specifically at the repeated drought areas outside irrigation zones. In other words, the southwest monsoon prevailing over the Andaman Sea and Thailand will become weakening while the monsoon trough moves upward to place over the southern portion of China influencing the dry spell period to occur for about 1-2 weeks.

While during middle July until September, more rain will appear again in Thailand along with heavy to very heavy rain at many areas, mostly during August and September. Consequently, overflowing from flash and forest flood will inundate at many areas. In other words, the southwest monsoon prevailing over the Andaman Sea and Thailand will become more active continuously together with the monsoon trough moves downward to place over the Upper Thailand periodically.

In October, rain in the northern and northeastern parts will reduce and chilly morning weather starts to appear, specifically at the upper portion. Whereas densely abundant rain in the central and eastern parts and the Southern Thailand will continuously occur further due to high-pressure air mass areas from China starting to prevail over the northern and northeastern parts. Additionally, the monsoon trough will move downward to place over the lower portion of the central part, the upper portion of the Southern Thailand, and the eastern part. Besides, the southwest monsoon prevailing over Thailand will transform to become the prevailing northeast monsoon instead.

Tropical cyclones (depressions, tropical storms and typhoons) For the rainy season of this year, just one tropical cyclone is expected to move toward Thailand. It favors a high chance to move pass the northeastern and northern parts in August or September.

Details for each part of Thailand:

Northern: For May till June, rain is expected to be above normal 10% (Normal: 178 and 156 millimeters consecutively). Then in July till August, rain will be near normal (Normal: 176 and 223 millimeters consecutively). From September till October, rain will be below normal 5% (Normal: 218 and 124 millimeters consecutively).

Northeastern: For May till June, rain is expected to be above normal around 5% (Normal: 187 and 203 millimeters consecutively). Then in July till August, rain will be near normal (Normal: 211 and 266 millimeters consecutively). From September till October, rain will be below normal 5% (Normal: 242 and 117 millimeters consecutively).

Central: For May till August, rain is expected to be near normal (Normal: 172, 145, 156 and 181 millimeters consecutively). From September till October, rain will be below normal 10% (Normal: 257 and 187 millimeters consecutively).

Eastern: For May till August, rain is expected to be near normal (Normal: 224, 262, 278 and 303 millimeters consecutively). From September till October, rain will be below normal 10% (Normal: 257 and 187 millimeters consecutively).

Southern Thailand – East Coast (the Gulf of Thailand): For May till August, rain is expected to be near normal (Normal: 224, 262, 278 and 303 millimeters consecutively). From September till October, rain will be below normal 10% (Normal: 330 and 255 millimeters consecutively).

Southern Thailand –West Coast (the Andaman Sea): For May till August, rain is expected to be near normal (Normal: 310, 312, 337 and 399 millimeters consecutively). For September till October, rain will be below normal 10% (Normal: 424 and 367 millimeters consecutively).

Bangkok and Vicinity: For May till August, rain is expected to be near normal (Normal: 248, 157, 175 and 219 millimeters consecutively). From September till October, rain will be below normal 10% (Normal: 334 and 292 millimeters consecutively).

Cautions:

1. *During May, summer thunderstorms often develop. Their appearances are thunder rain, gusty wind and possible hail falling at some areas possibly causing property damages and losses at agricultural areas.*

2. *At some periods, heavy to very heavy rain occurs continuously for many days. Thus, possible overflowing from flash and forest flood will inundate, specifically during August till September. The public then should follow weather forecast news closely.*

3. *During the period of tropical cyclones moving close or pass Thailand, their appearances are gusty wind, vast areas of raining, and heavy to very heavy rain at many areas. Furthermore, active wind waves happen at coastal zones as 2 – 4 meters high. As a result, the public and mariners should be cautious with this natural hazard and should follow weather forecast news closely during the tropical cyclone periods.*

Rainfall expectations of 2018 compared to normal:

Part	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct
North	Above Normal 10%	Near normal	Below Normal 5%
Northeast	Above Normal 5%	Near normal	Below Normal 5%
Central	Near normal	Near normal	Below Normal 10%
East	Near normal	Near normal	Below Normal 10%
Southern Thailand East Coast	Near normal	Near normal	Below Normal 10%
Southern Thailand West Coast	Near normal	Near normal	Below Normal 10%
Bangkok Metropolis and Vicinity	Near normal	Near normal	Below Normal 10%

Rainfall amount expectations (millimeters) during the rainy season of 2018:

Part	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
North	170-210	150-190	160-200	200-250	180-220	100-140
Northeast	180-220	190-230	190-230	240-290	200-250	90-120
Central	160-200	130-170	140-180	160-200	210-230	150-190
East	200-250	240-290	250-300	280-330	270-320	180-220
Southern Thailand East Coast	130-170	100-140	100-140	100-140	120-160	200-250
Southern Thailand West Coast	280-330	290-340	320-370	370-420	360-410	320-370
Bangkok Metropolis and Vicinity	220-270	140-180	160-200	190-230	270-320	240-290

Remarks - Normal means average during the 30-year period (A.D. 1981 – 2010 or B.E. 2524 – 2553)

-These long range expectations are utilized by applying some climatic models and statistical methods, the public then should follow the daily weather news from the Thai Meteorological Department further.

- The next updated rainy seasonal forecast will be at the last week of June 2018.

- Further enquiry of monthly climate, 3-month climate and seasonal forecasts can be preceded at Tel: 02-398-9929 or Fax: 02-383-8827.

- Please follow monthly climate, 3-month climate and seasonal forecasts at www.tmd.go.th/en/ at the climate tab.

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