

# the Outlook

The very active tropical season continues as 3 active hurricanes churn in the Atlantic. This is a rare occurrence as all are expected to reach major hurricane status. Irma (heading to Florida) has already surpassed many records for wind speed and duration. Jose tracking behind Irma is thankfully forecast to drift into the north Atlantic away from the U.S. coast.

Kita currently in the Bay of Campeche is expected to make landfall near Vera Cruz Mexico by early Saturday. Forecasts expect further strengthening, and Kita could be approaching major hurricane intensity before making landfall. Kita should bring rain totals of 10-15 inches with up to 25 inches possible over the mountainous terrain. The storm is expected to dissipate fairly quickly as it moves over the high elevations of south central Mexico. This system may emerge into the Pacific and become the next tropical wave that may become Tropical Storm Max.

Hurricane Irma is currently a high category four storm currently off the north coast of Cuba. Irma is expected to remain in a favorable environment and maintain category four status through landfall over south Florida. Model consensus brings the center of the storm into the Keys around midnight Saturday followed by a run up the middle of the Peninsula into Atlanta by late Monday evening. Irma is expected to produce heavy rains and life threatening winds and storm surge, especially in southern Florida regardless of the exact track.



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Irma looks to track up the Florida Peninsula into Georgia and the Carolina's and beyond. Many crops are in the potential path of this powerful storm and will be impacted as she rolls through. Southern Florida looks to take the brunt of the storm however growers there do not have much product in the ground at this time. Plantings will be delayed for sure how long depends on how much destruction is done to infrastructure and salt water intrusion. Central Florida's citrus region looks to take a huge hit with harvests just weeks away. Vegetable planting (squash, pepper, eggplant, etc.) are in the ground in this region, and severe damage is likely. Replanting may be an option for growers this early in the season depending on damage inflicted in the region. Regions to the north of southern Georgia are ready to start harvests and very vulnerable to damage from this storm. The track Irma takes will play a vital role in how this region comes through the storm. Past southern Georgia the impact of Irma will depend on where and how fast the system moves. Will it stay along the coast or move inland into Virginia and Tennessee. Much is yet to be determined with this dangerous storm.

We will be watching these current storms closely and keep you up to date as to damage to agricultural assets in the wake of these storms.

