

the Outlook

The active tropical season continues into fall as a tropical disturbance in the Caribbean heads toward Florida this weekend. Forecasts models give this system a 40% chance of further development: however, none have the system reaching hurricane strength. The system looks to track off the west coast of Florida slowly moving north. Heavy rains will once again impact South Florida this weekend moving to the north early next week. Another disturbance over the northeastern Caribbean Sea moving west-northwest looks to develop further moving toward Florida late next week. Most recent data suggests conditions in October and November will be favorable for cyclone development especially in the Caribbean. Sea surface temperatures in the Caribbean are substantially above average (1-2° C) signaling a higher than usual chance of tropical storm development in the fall.

Out west we have been dealing with an extended heat wave and very warm and humid overnight temperatures advancing growth rates in the fields. All crops have felt the effects of these growing conditions with lesser yields and quality. Heat and humidity related defects (seeders, internal burn, mold, mildew, etc.) continue to impact yields as insect populations increase in the warm temperatures. Temperatures are expected to return to seasonal averages next week, but the damage may have already been done in many of these upcoming stands.

South of the border Mexico has also had its share of catastrophes impacting supplies. Hurricanes, heavy rains, earthquakes, and now volcanoes have all affected the region this season. Recent heavy rains continue to reduce yields as we move into Fall production. Forecasts expect rain coverage and accumulation to gradually decrease as monsoonal flow weakens with isolated showers by early next week.

We will be watching these current storms and weather patterns closely as we approach the transition and keep you up to date as we gather more information.

