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Hurricane Update at the Peak of Season



The key this year, as in any year, is to **get prepared and stay prepared.**



As we approach the peak of hurricane season on September 10th, the activity is slightly below average, but conditions suggest a potential shift. The main factors contributing to this quieter-than-expected start include atmospheric and oceanic conditions. The expected La Niña, bringing cooler water temperatures to the eastern Pacific, will not likely arrive in time. Instead, we remain in a neutral pattern, which results in more wind shear, disrupting the formation of tropical systems.

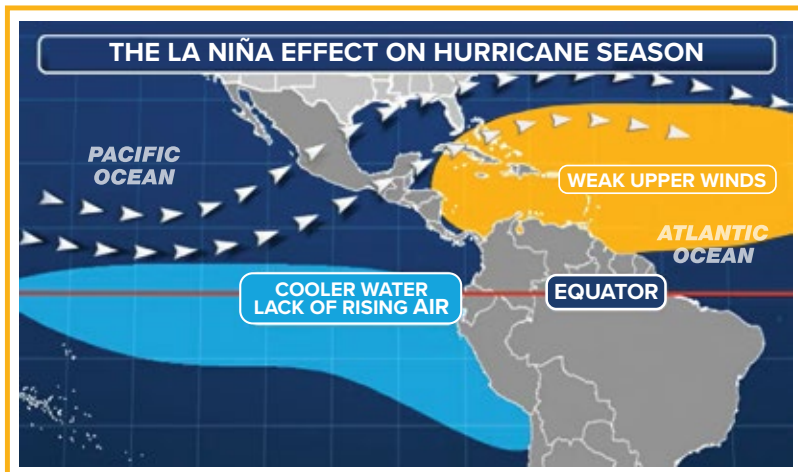
The Atlantic Ocean's cooler temperatures and a northward shift in the Intertropical Convergence Zone (a band of clouds consisting of showers and occasional thunderstorms that encircles the globe near the equator) have led to the dissipation of storms from the African coast over cooler waters. However, as conditions transition back to normal, with the African monsoon intensifying, there's an expectation for increased storm activity as we move further into the season.

Bryan Norcross from FOX Weather highlights a typical Hurricane season can be divided into three parts:

- ▶ Early in the year, storms form near the Caribbean, Florida, or the Gulf of Mexico.
- ▶ In August and September, disturbances from Africa are the primary source.
- ▶ Later, the focus returns to the western Caribbean, Gulf, and Florida.

Despite the current weather pattern, the odds favor hurricane development in September and October, driven by warm ocean temperatures and can lead to rapid intensification. While there may be fewer named storms, the possibility of significant hurricanes remains, with projections of six to ten tropical systems in September alone, akin to the record-breaking 2020 season.

While the number of named storms may be lower this season, the potential for powerful hurricanes remains significant. Residents in these areas must stay informed and prepared as conditions evolve.



TROPICAL CYCLONE IMPACT PROBABILITIES	
(defined as one or more storms within 50 miles of location)	
Probability of Named Storm impact	94%
Probability of Hurricane impact	70%
Probability of Major Hurricane impact	40%
# Named Storms 1880-2020	274
# Hurricanes 1880-2020	115
# Major Hurricanes 1880-2020	48

Lessons from Trees on Hurricane Survival

Hurricanes are a formidable force of nature, often leaving behind a trail of destruction. For property managers, associations, as well as homeowners, understanding how to manage tree landscapes against such forces is crucial to minimizing damage and ensuring safety. Trees, while offering beauty and environmental benefits, can also become hazards if not managed correctly. This article highlights the critical lessons learned about tree survival during hurricanes, which can help you make informed decisions for your property landscapes.

Lesson 1: Some Species Resist Wind Better Than Others

Not all trees are created equal when it comes to withstanding hurricane force winds. Certain species have evolved features that make them more resilient. Research shows native species often fare better in storms due to their adaptation to local conditions.

Lesson 2: Palms Survive Hurricanes Better Than Most

Palm species are often the champions of hurricane survival. Unlike broad-leaved and conifer trees, palms have a single terminal bud. This unique feature allows them to survive despite losing all the fronds. The palm's ability to bend rather than break makes it a resilient choice for hurricane-prone areas.

Lesson 3: Pines May Decline Over Time

While pines might appear undamaged immediately after a hurricane, they could decline over a period ranging from six months to two years. This delayed reaction is likely due to hidden damage caused by bending and twisting during high winds, making monitoring them closely after storms essential.

Lesson 4: Leaf Loss Doesn't Mean Death

Many trees lose leaves during hurricanes, but this doesn't mean death. Leaf loss is a survival mechanism, allowing trees to reduce wind resistance and conserve resources for recovery. Patience is key, as these trees often regrow their foliage.

Lesson 5: Native Trees Survive Better

In South Florida, native trees like live oak, gumbo limbo, and sabal palm show higher survival rates than exotic species such as melaleuca and Australian pine. Choosing native species can increase the resilience of your landscape in hurricane-prone regions.

Lesson 6: Older Trees Are More Prone to Fail

Older trees are often more susceptible to hurricane damage due to age related vulnerabilities such as disease, decay, and reduced flexibility. Regular assessments and proactive management can help mitigate these risks.

Lesson 7: Unhealthy Trees Are Predisposed to Damage

Trees that are unhealthy, with decayed root systems or large dead branches, are particularly vulnerable during hurricanes. Regular health checks should be conducted to identify and address any signs of decay or disease.

Lesson 8: Poor Structure Increases Vulnerability

Trees with poor structures, such as co-dominant stems with included bark, are likelier to suffer breakage. Structural pruning can help develop a strong trunk and branch system, reducing the risk of damage.

Lesson 9: Well-Pruned Trees Survive Better

Proper pruning enhances tree resilience. A study post-Hurricane Andrew revealed that pruned trees had a survival rate of 73%, compared to 47% for unpruned trees. Pruning reduces wind resistance and strengthens the tree's structure, which is crucial for hurricane survival.



Capturing the Essence of Fall with Flowers

September brings us the official start of Fall, but we don't have the stunning transformation of leaves changing to get us in the season's spirit in Florida. But, fall offers the perfect backdrop to celebrate the season.

Although the heat is still present, September brings slightly cooler weather, and summer slowly transitions into the welcoming weather of fall. While Florida's fall may look a little different from the rest of the country, we don't have to miss out on a display of new colors. We have an array of autumn flowering plants that are here to help capture the essence of the season.

AGERATUM produces long-lasting clusters of fuzzy flowers in shades of blue, purple, and white over dusty green foliage.

ALYSSUM are petite clusters of white, pink, or purple beauty.

BEGONIAS in reds, pink, and whites always dependable blooms.

CALADIUM leaves blend deep greens, intense reds, pinks, and white in patterns.

CELOSIA is highly colorful with a fuzzy texture and bright-colored spikes are a visual delight.

COLEUS offers various foliage colors, leaf shapes, and growth habits.

CROSSANDRA bring lovely clusters of orange flowers and glossy, dark green foliage.

DIANTHUS produce loads of lacy-edged blooms in vibrant colors.

DUSTY MILLER leaves are covered with fine matted hairs on both sides, giving silver to white appearance that reflects moonlight.

MARIGOLDS produce glowing hot colors in yellow, gold, orange, rust, and bicolor, are extremely tough and hardy annuals that produce abundant flowers.

MILKWEED, *Asclepias tuberosa*, is native to Florida. This bushy perennial is prized for its large, flat-topped clusters of bright orange flowers.

NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS and **SUNPATIENS** offer a variety of colors. Hybrid SunPatiens are bigger, do better in the sun.

ORNAMENTAL CABBAGE comes in many color combinations, including green, white, pink, red, and purple.

The **PANSY** and Johnny-Jump-Up **VIOLA** are part of the same family. Available in a rainbow of colors and bicolors. Violas are more heat tolerant and hardier than most pansies.

PENTAS, a.k.a. Egyptian Starflower, produce enormous clusters of five-pointed flowers that are heat and humidity-proof.

SUPERTUNIAS come in a variety of colors, shapes, sizes with a trailing growth habit, producing vast quantities of brilliant flowers.

SALVIA produces tall flower spikes over silver to green foliage that are very dependable thrillers in the sun, heat, and drought.

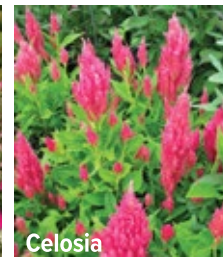
SNAPDRAGONS are excellent for early spring and late season frost-tolerant color. There is a rainbow of colors to choose from.

TORENIA are dainty, but bold with a trailing habit and bloom from spring until frost.

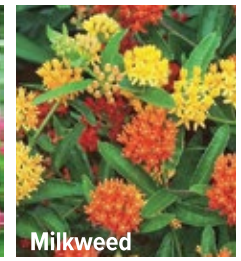
VINCA is a tough, compact flowering annual. Colors vary in the rose spectrum, with white, mauve, purple, and reds.



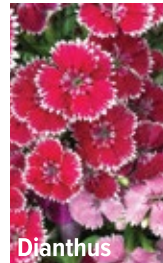
Dusty Miller +
Dianthus



Celosia



Milkweed



Dianthus



Violas



Torenia



Marigolds



Caladiums + Impatiens



Pentas



Coleus



Crossandra



Petunias



Impatiens



Caladiums



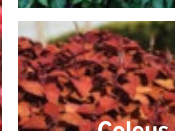
Vinca



Salvia



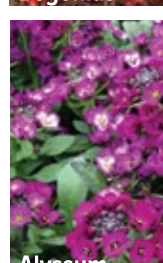
Ornamental
Cabbage +
Begonias



Coleus



Ageratum + Alyssum



Alyssum



Snapdragons



Pansies

Lessons from Soil & Roots on Hurricane Survival

Lesson 1: Rooting Space Is Vital

Adequate rooting space is critical for tree stability during hurricanes. Ensure your root systems have space to develop.

Lesson 2: Good Soil Properties Aid Wind Resistance

Deep, uncompacted soil with good drainage supports robust root growth and enhances wind resistance. Avoid planting in shallow or compacted soils, as these conditions can weaken trees and increase the risk of uprooting.

Lesson 3: Protect Root Systems

Roots provide essential anchorage, and damage to the root system can severely compromise a tree's stability. Avoid cutting roots under the canopy, as they are crucial for firming the tree against wind forces.

Understanding these lessons about tree survival in hurricanes can help property managers and homeowner associations make informed decisions about tree care and maintenance.

By selecting the right species, ensuring proper pruning, and maintaining healthy soil and root conditions, you can enhance the resilience of your landscape against hurricane damage.

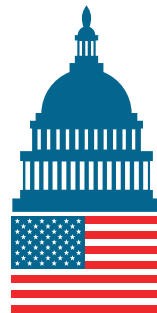
Remember, proactive management is key. Regular assessments, strategic planting, and timely maintenance can significantly improve the survival of your trees and the safety of your properties during hurricane season.

Reference: University of Florida Publication #FOR118, Mary L. Duryea, professor emeritus, UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences; and former associate dean for research, director of Florida Agricultural Experiment Station and Eliana Kampf, urban forester, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL.



FLORIDA AVG TEMP over last 10 years

September	89°F
October	82°F
November	73°F
December	76°F



Constitution Day

Tuesday, September 17th

A little-known but highly significant day, marks the day the U.S. Constitution was adopted.

September's Supermoon

Wednesday, September 18th

The full moon in September is the second supermoon in a row as well as a partial lunar eclipse, meaning the moon will likely take on an orange hue. According to NASA, it appears orange because of how sunlight strikes the moon's surface after passing through our atmosphere.



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