

the Outlook

As Tropical storm Sergio moves across Baja Mexico, it looks to miss the major growing regions of Baja. The major growing regions are on the southern (Ciudad Constitucion) and northern (Vizcaino) ends of the state and Sergio is passing directly between the two areas. Forecasts show winds of 30mph and minimal rain across these regions. This should spare these regions any severe damage from the storm other than some possible damage to shade house structures due to winds. The states of northern Sinaloa and Sonora will not be so lucky. This area is expecting 3-5 inches of rain and 45+mph winds. The region supplies fall crops including beans, bell peppers, corn, melons, and squash. I have also included a preliminary update from our partners at Fresh Link from the effects of Hurricane Michael below.

A Note from Steve Sterling, General Manager, Fresh-Link Produce:

Damage varied extensively from the western part of Georgia to the eastern and central part of Georgia. Sweet corn was devastated in Bainbridge which is where the majority of corn is grown. Huge loss on green beans and cucumbers in Moultrie, Tifton and Americus area of the state. Watermelons in Cordele, GA are probably a complete loss. From Thomasville east and Tifton south got very lucky, there are a lot of bell pepper, eggplant, cucumbers and squash grown in this area and there is damage, but it's minimal. Most of the damage in this area will result in reduced yields and pepper scalding or turning color due to plants losing foliage and fruit being exposed to the sun. The winter cabbage deal in Moultrie is going to be hurt to some extent. Central South Carolina grows some peppers, cucumber, eggplant, squash, and sweet corn, not near the volume that Georgia grows but enough to be felt in the marketplace and that region was hurt badly. A lot of the shippers in the western part of Georgia are going to be without power for 1 to 2 weeks, so damage assessment is tricky.



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To recap:

- Sweet corn in Georgia – Probably 75% loss.
- Cucumbers in GA. & South Carolina – Probably 50% loss.
- Green Beans in GA. – Probably 60% loss.
- Squash in GA & S.C. – Probably 40% loss.
- Bell Pepper in GA & S.C. – Probably 30% loss.
- Eggplant in GA. & S.C. – Probably 40% loss.
- Cabbage in GA. – Too early to tell but there will be significant damage, and this is a big cabbage producing state.
- Watermelons in GA. – Probably 100% and S.C. was hurt bad but have not received enough info.

Also, keep in mind this storm is still traveling through North Carolina where shippers were still harvesting cucumbers and green beans that did not get wiped out by Florence, Michael will put an end to that.

Squash has started in central Florida and Mexico is crossing more product, that should take some pressure off the market. Cucumbers will spike up for the next 10 days, but then we should get some relief from Florida and Mexico.

Pepper, sweet corn and green beans will stay elevated for some time, there is no real relief coming from other regions any time soon.

