

An Ounce of Prevention 'May'be Worth a Ton of Nasty Weather Cures!

Roy Wysnewski— March 2021 Climate Analysis

Weather Analysis

This month's weather gets a mixed review: March rainfall was below average while the abnormally warm temperature pattern of the past 15 months continued.

Historically, March is one of the rainier months in our eight-month 'dry' season. But not this year. Only 1.72 inches fell (36% below average) and we are 15% below average heading into the second quarter.

The persistent above normal temperatures we experienced for the past 15 months continued through March. The average monthly temperature exceeded normal by 6 F and there were 23 above-normal high-temperature days (74% of the 31-day month). Also, there were five record high-temperature days.

Monthly rainfall and high-temperature data are presented in the graph.

Climate Analysis—The Pending 2021 Hurricane Season

The 2020 hurricane season was the sixth consecutive year when named storms formed before June 1st. First, Tropical Storm Arthur formed on May 16, followed by Tropical Storm Bertha on May 27. Tropical Depression Three formed on June 1st and it immediately became Tropical Storm Cristobal on June 2nd. This burst of premature tropical cyclones in 2020 prompted the World Meteorological Organization to discuss at their February meeting the possibility of upping the start

Meadows Rainfall and Temperature Data

Rainfall—1.72 in. (YTD: 4.9 in.)
23 yr. Feb. rainfall avg.—2.34 in.

Average high-temp.—82 °F
Above normal high-temp. days: 23
Record high-temp. days: 5

of hurricane season to May 15th. The decision coming out of that meeting was that the National Hurricane Center will now issue routine Tropical Weather Outlooks starting May 15. However, the start date for hurricane season will remain June 1st.

The 2020 Atlantic hurricane season also was the most active on record! The season saw a total of 31 sub-tropical cyclones, all but one of which became a named storm. Of the 30 named storms, 13 developed into hurricanes, and six further intensified into major hurricanes, with one, Hurricane Iota, attaining Category 5 strength.

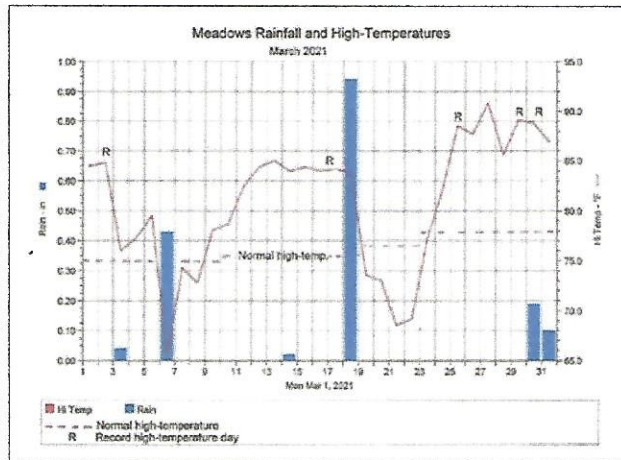
With such a prolific 2020 tropical cyclone season in the record books, the obvious question now is: What might we expect for the upcoming 2021 hurricane season? And the answer to this important question, just released by the National Hurricane Center, is for another above average hurricane season. Specifically, the Colorado State University is calling for 17 named storms, 8 hurricanes and 4 major hurricanes (Category 3 or higher). Each of these numbers is above the typical season average of 12 named storms, 6 hurricanes, and 3 major hurricanes. Although there are no specific predictions for Florida, there are expectations that we too will experience a more

active tropical cyclone season. Here are two reasons why.

First, Florida is long overdue. Historically, 40% of all Atlantic hurricanes make landfall in Florida. Yet, in the past 16 years Florida has seen little activity with only two hurricanes, Irma in 2017 and Michael in 2018, and one tropical storm, Eta in Nov. 2020, making impact [In Sarasota, tropical activity has been even more sparse]. Second, the two main ingredients that fueled the record 2020 cyclone season — a volatile atmosphere and above-average sea temperatures — are still present and may have more significant influence this year. The upper atmosphere (Stratosphere) continues to 'heat' up as evidenced by the February 'splintering' of the polar vortex and subsequent deep freeze reaching deep into Texas [this occurred despite existing La Nina conditions!]. And the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico water temperatures continue to be above average — at Sarasota, the Gulf water temperature was 6° F above average in March.

This evidence provides a clear warning to Sarasota area residents to be extra vigilant in the months ahead and **be prepared**. Here in The Meadows, the Emergency Preparedness Committee has an excellent program aimed at helping us **prepare** for this hurricane season. Come December, let us not be faced with a 'ton' of cures.

Send comments and questions about this month's report to: roywys8@msn.com.



If you are anticipating leaving your home for an extended period of time prior to hurricane season or Florida's seasonal storms, please prepare your home properly. For the safety of your property and your neighbors.

HURRICANE PREPARATION

- Pick up loose objects and debris in your yard and around the exterior of your home. Remove objects that aren't secure, they may become flying projectiles.
- Trim your shrubs and trees to prevent potential damage. Proper pruning will allow wind to easily pass through the canopy, reducing risk of damage to trees.
- Stake recently planted and/or young trees. Extra support will help stabilize the tree's trunk.
- Check your gutters, downspouts and drains. Make sure they are all draining properly and are free of damage and debris.