

the Outlook

As the Southeast begins to recover from Hurricane Matthew, major flooding continues as rivers crest in the eastern Carolinas. Crop assessment is ongoing throughout the vast regions impacted by the storm. The track the storm took spared South Florida, which received a couple inches of rain and winds in the 25-35mph range. This region produces fall and winter supplies of pepper, squash, cucumber, eggplant, and green beans, which have come through the storm in good shape.

Central Florida is where the storm began its destructive path. This region produces mostly citrus, with early reports indicating minimal loss at the moment. Northeast Florida was hit with 100mph winds and torrential rain and flooding, causing certain damage to the broccoli, cabbage, and green beans grown there.

Eastern Georgia was hit hard, however the majority of the fall and winter acreage was to the west of the storm's path and received minimal precipitation and gusty winds.

South Carolina was hit hard with fields in the eastern part of the state a complete loss. Areas to the west where much of the pepper and eggplant are sourced are in much better shape receiving only a couple inches of rain. North Carolina received major flooding with up to 18 inches of rain reported. This region will likely sustain major crop losses to the cucumber, squash, green beans and cabbage in the region.

Virginia is a large supplier of green beans and tomatoes during the fall. With 6-10 inches of rain and strong winds, paired with the previous wet weather in the region, major losses are expected.

It will be sometime before more accurate field assessments can take place but it is safe to say extensive damage has occurred throughout the numerous growing regions. We will keep you updated as we gather more information on this critical situation.