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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE CURVED PATH OF A HURRICANE

The formidable West Indian hurricanes do not travel in a straight ahead fashion, the path normally chosen is a curve, roughly parabolic in shape, open to the east. These hurricanes seem to move with the winds prevailing ⁱⁿ the body of the storm, perhaps from 1 to 5 miles up; and since these winds are from a little south of east in the tropics, the storm usually goes west-northwestward there. In the subtropics, the storm enters the border zone of the prevailing westerlies and swings off, or "recurves" toward the northeast. Some storms cross the Atlantic twice: once in the trade wind belt, and again, farther north, in the westerlies.

The area visited by these storms includes the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and the tropical ocean for a few hundred miles east of the West Indies and Florida. Thus the routes leading to and from the Panama Canal on the Atlantic side lie for a great distance in the heart of the hurricane zone. There are two main hurricane paths, one following the inside equatorial current and gulf stream route, and the other nearer shore, skirting the north coasts of the Greater Antilles and the east coast of Florida. The former is most frequented by the cyclones of June and July, and the latter by the more numerous storms of August, September, and October. Some storms enter the Gulf of Mexico and run ashore, losing much of their peculiar intensity on land.

(Tomorrow: Weather and Crop Yields)

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