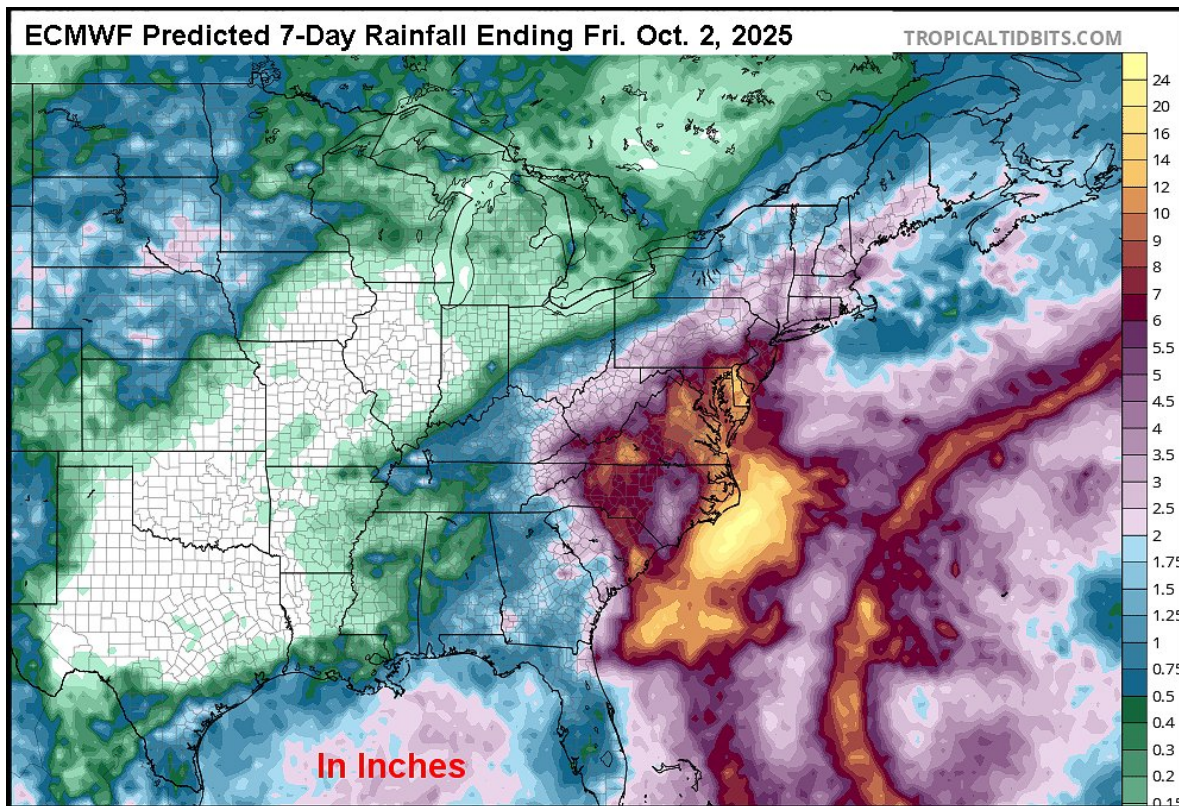


Tropical Cyclone May Bring Flooding to Carolinas, Virginia

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, September 25 (World Weather Inc.) – Computer weather forecast model changes overnight regarding a tropical disturbance near the northern Leeward Islands has raised the potential for flooding rain to impact the Carolinas and Virginia next week. The disturbance is expected to evolve into a tropical cyclone this weekend and it may be pushed inland by the combined influences of Tropical Storm Humberto and a mid-latitude trough of low pressure over the eastern Midwest. The forecast is bound to change as adjustments to the position and intensity of each weather feature is made in future model runs.



ECMWF First Guess 7-Day Rainfall From Developing Tropical Cyclone

A tropical wave near Dominican Republic this morning has been given a 50% chance of evolving into a tropical cyclone in the next couple of days and an 80% chance of evolution to a tropical depression or tropical storm this weekend, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center. The system is advertised to begin this development after moving west northwesterly to a position near the Bahamas Friday into Saturday.

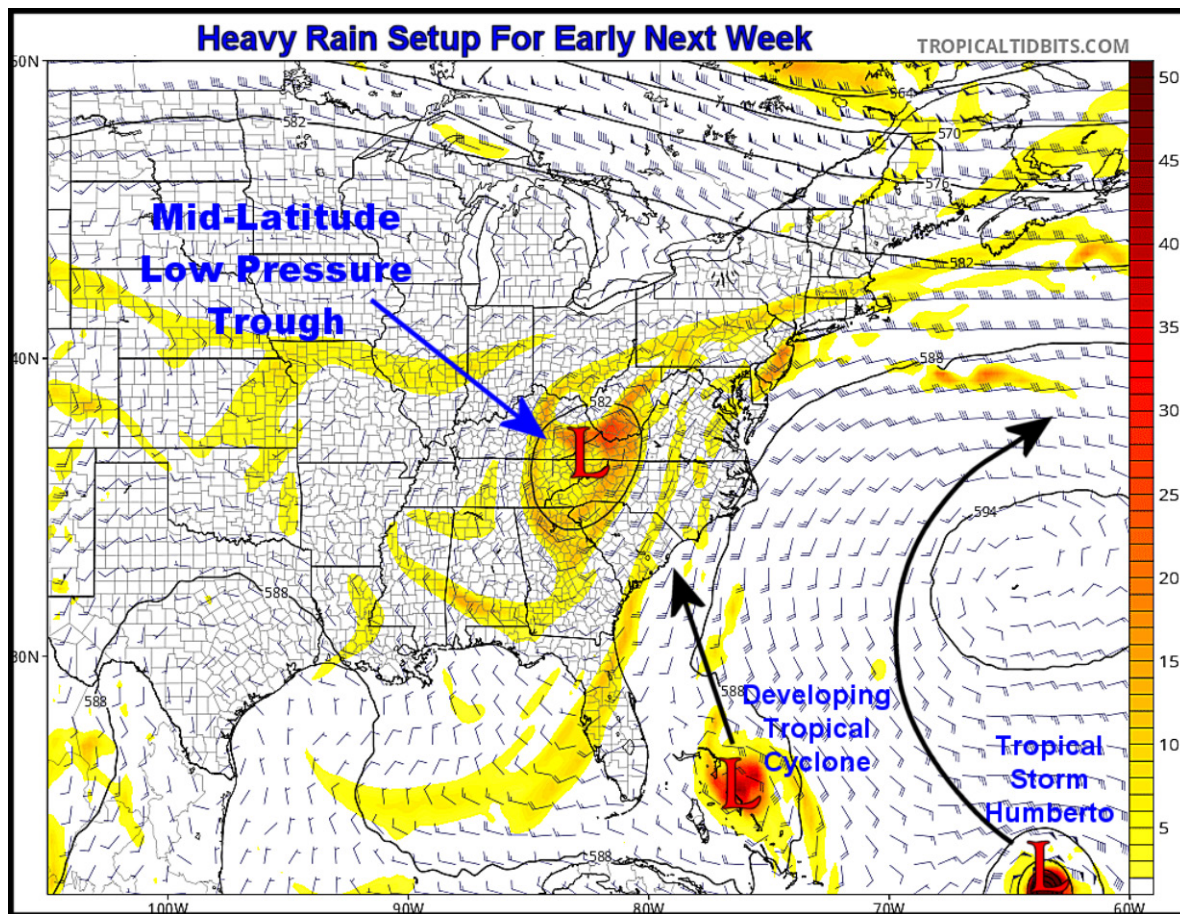
Computer forecast models have changed greatly overnight, now suggesting this disturbance will intensify and make it into the Carolinas and Virginia late this weekend and/or early next week. The system will be pushed more to the United States by the combined influences of a mid-latitude trough of low pressure over the eastern Midwest and Tennessee River Basin and the northwesterly track of Tropical Storm Humberto. Both of

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these weather systems will help guide the new tropical system near and probably into the Carolinas and Virginia early next week.

There is still sufficient time for another change to be made in this forecast and a close monitoring of the storm system is warranted. *Today's "first guess" by the ECMWF has suggested rainfall of 3.00 to 9.00 inches and local totals of more than 10.00 inches will be possible if the storm develops and moves as advertised today.* The trough of low pressure to the west and the Appalachian Mountains will block the new tropical cyclone from moving over the mountains and the presence of what may become Hurricane Humberto will prevent the new disturbance from moving in any direction other than north or northwest which may prolong the heavier rainfall resulting in some serious flooding. This situation needs to be closely monitored.

Any eastward shifting of the trough of low pressure over the Appalachian Mountains this weekend or early next week could push the tropical cyclone more to the north bringing the heavier rainfall to Atlantic coastal areas and less over the heart of the Carolinas and Virginia. Humberto's relative position to the U.S. Atlantic Coast will also have much influence on the movement of the new tropical disturbance. The situation is very interesting and could be a potential problem if everything goes exactly wrong allowing persistent rain to lock into the Carolinas and/or Virginia. **There is potential for very serious flooding, but it is too soon to have much confidence on if, when and where that may occur.**



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