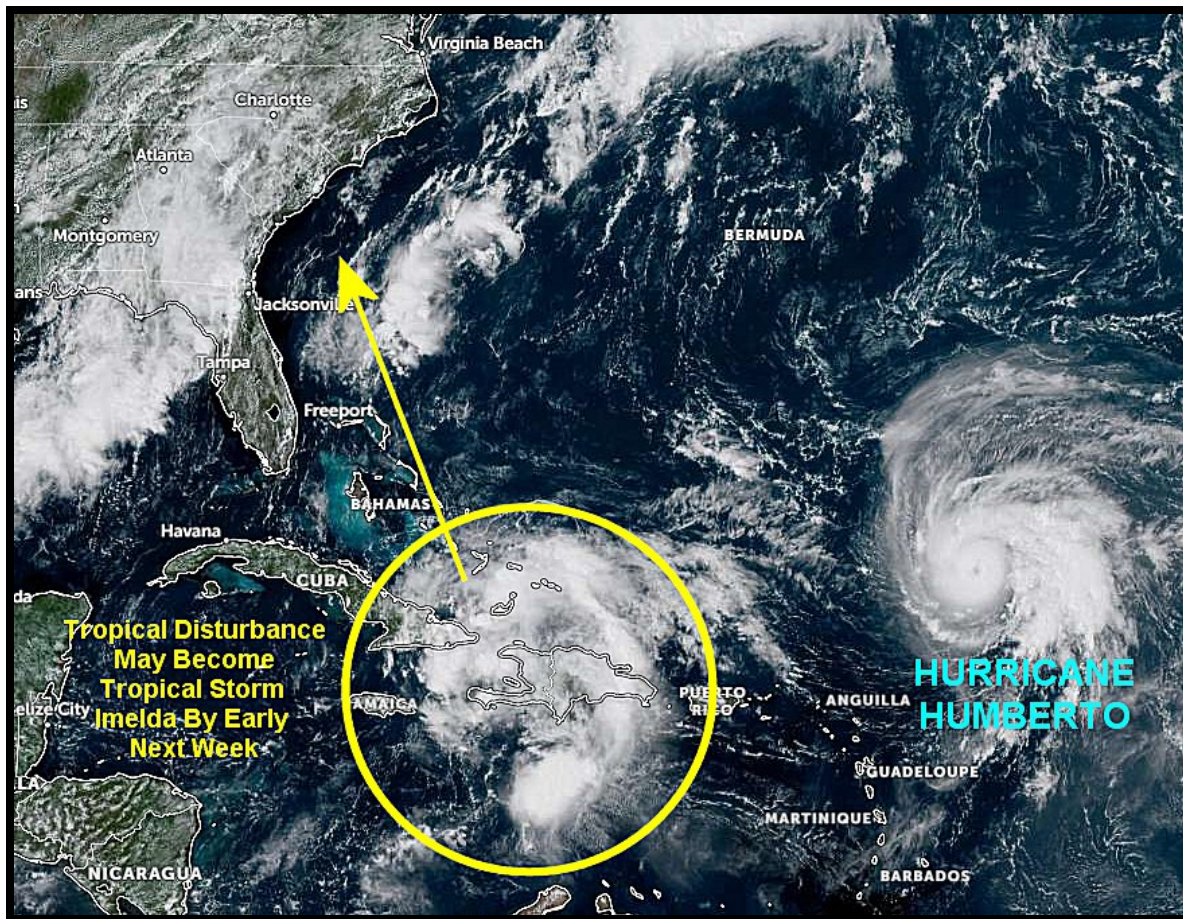


Worrisome Stage Set For Excessive Rain In Carolinas

By Drew Lerner

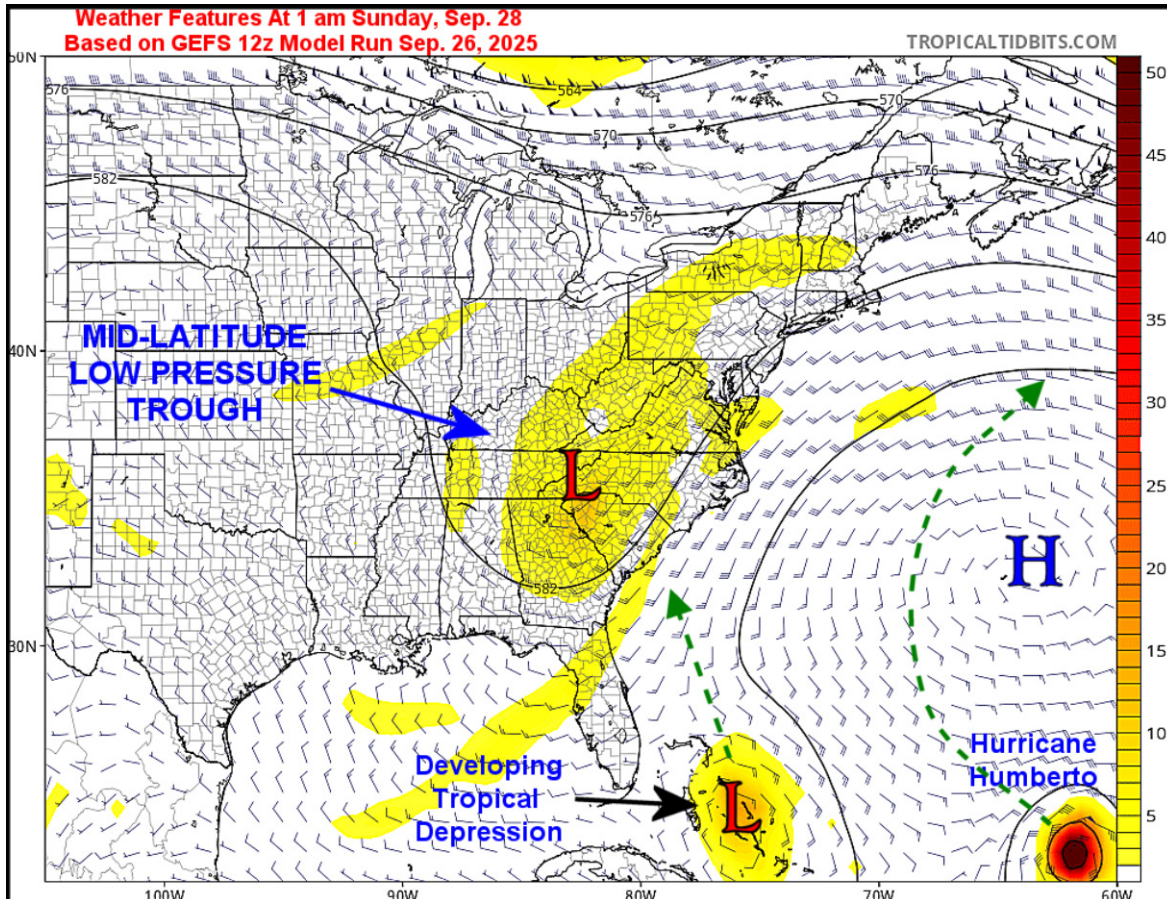
Kansas City, September 26 (World Weather Inc.) – *A worrisome setup in the atmosphere may lead to copious rainfall in the Carolinas and neighboring southeastern Virginia next week and the situation will need to be closely monitored during the weekend. Hurricane Humberto, a mid-latitude trough of low pressure over the eastern United States, a strong surface high pressure system over eastern Canada and a developing tropical cyclone near the eastern tip of Cuba will combine forces during the early to middle part of next week to possibly bring a tropical cyclone into the Carolinas or at least induce substantial rain and flooding to a part of the region.* Nothing about this situation is 'set in stone' and any one of the influential weather features could change the outcome for the Carolinas. For now, though, residents in the Carolinas should be planning ahead for the possible impact of a tropical cyclone and, if nothing else, making plans to deal with flood water.



No one should be unprepared for this event next week. Forecasters have been talking about it all week and while there is still plenty of time for changes to evolve during the weekend, it is very important to know the potential impacts of this event so that plans can be made now as to how to handle the situation next week if the worst case scenario plays out.

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The tropical disturbance impacting Hispaniola, eastern Cuba and the Turks and Caicos Islands today is very disorganized, but conditions will become more supportive of development tonight and especially Saturday as the system begins to move north northwest through the Bahamas. The disturbance may evolve into a tropical storm or possibly a hurricane by early next week, although that is much speculation for right now.



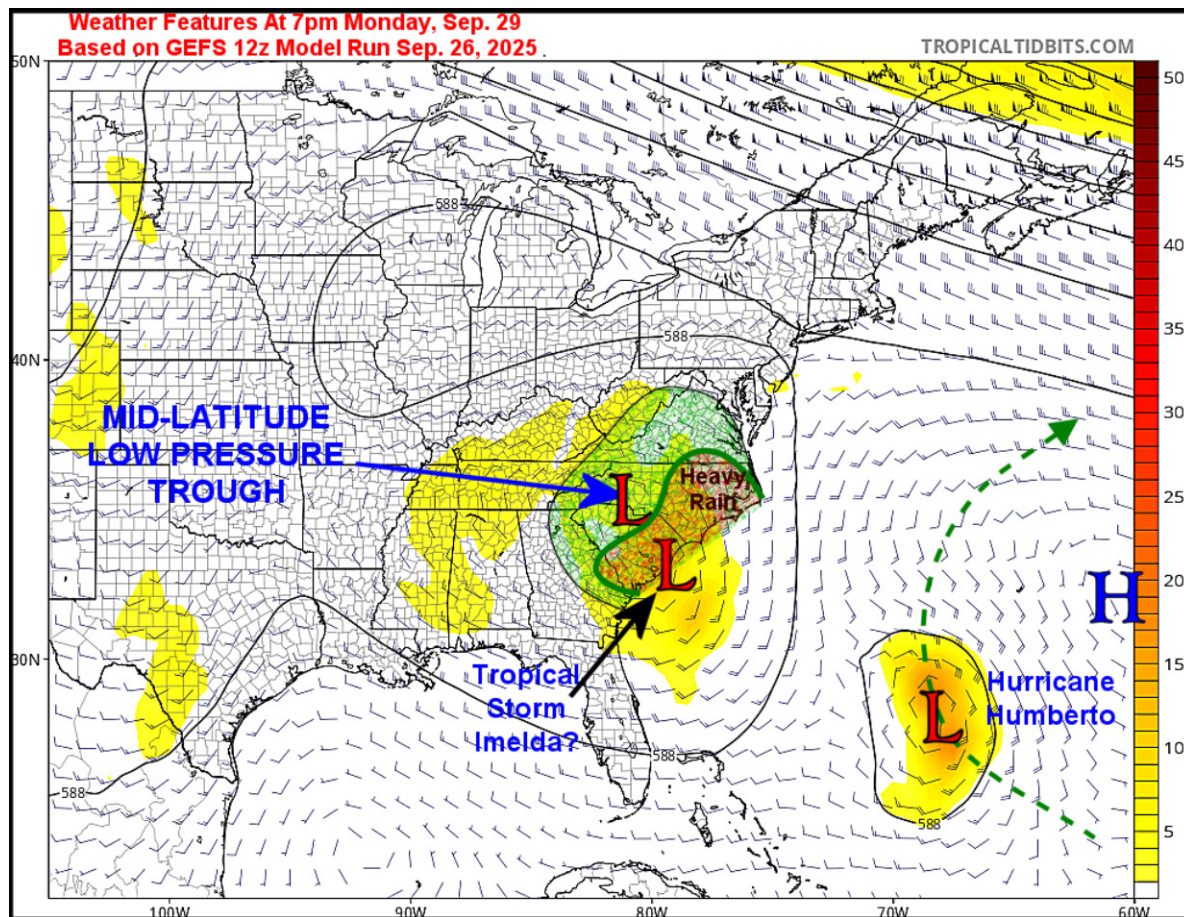
The storm will be drawn northward by a mid-latitude trough of low pressure that is anchored over the southeastern United States. That trough of low pressure will remain anchored in place by the combined impact of a ridge of high pressure over Bermuda and the intensifying Hurricane Humberto. As Humberto becomes more intense and begins to move toward open water between the U.S. and Bermuda it will act as a wall preventing the trough over the eastern U.S. from moving. As time moves along the new tropical cyclone near the Bahamas will be drawn northward toward the South Carolina coast by the mid-latitude trough.

About the same time that the tropical cyclone (to be named Imelda) reaches the South Carolina coast Hurricane Humberto will be passing to the east and its large wind circulation field will attempt to pull Imelda out to sea in an east southeasterly direction. The success or failure of this influence from Humberto on Imelda will be determined by the intensity and positions of Humberto and the trough of low pressure over the eastern United States. If the trough weakens enough Imelda could get pulled out to sea and spare the Carolinas from a serious flood event. However, if the trough remains significant as it is

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advertised by the ECMWF model today Imelda may briefly drift off the coast for a little while as Humberto passes and then its movement north to northwesterly might resume.

To complicate matters, a massive surface high pressure center is predicted to evolve over Ontario and Quebec this weekend and it will produce a strong easterly fetch of surface wind. That wind will blow strongly into the middle and northern Atlantic Coast States. The strong easterly wind will join the wind associated with the new tropical cyclone Imelda and help perpetuate rain from the tropical system and reinforce the storm's nearly stationary position.

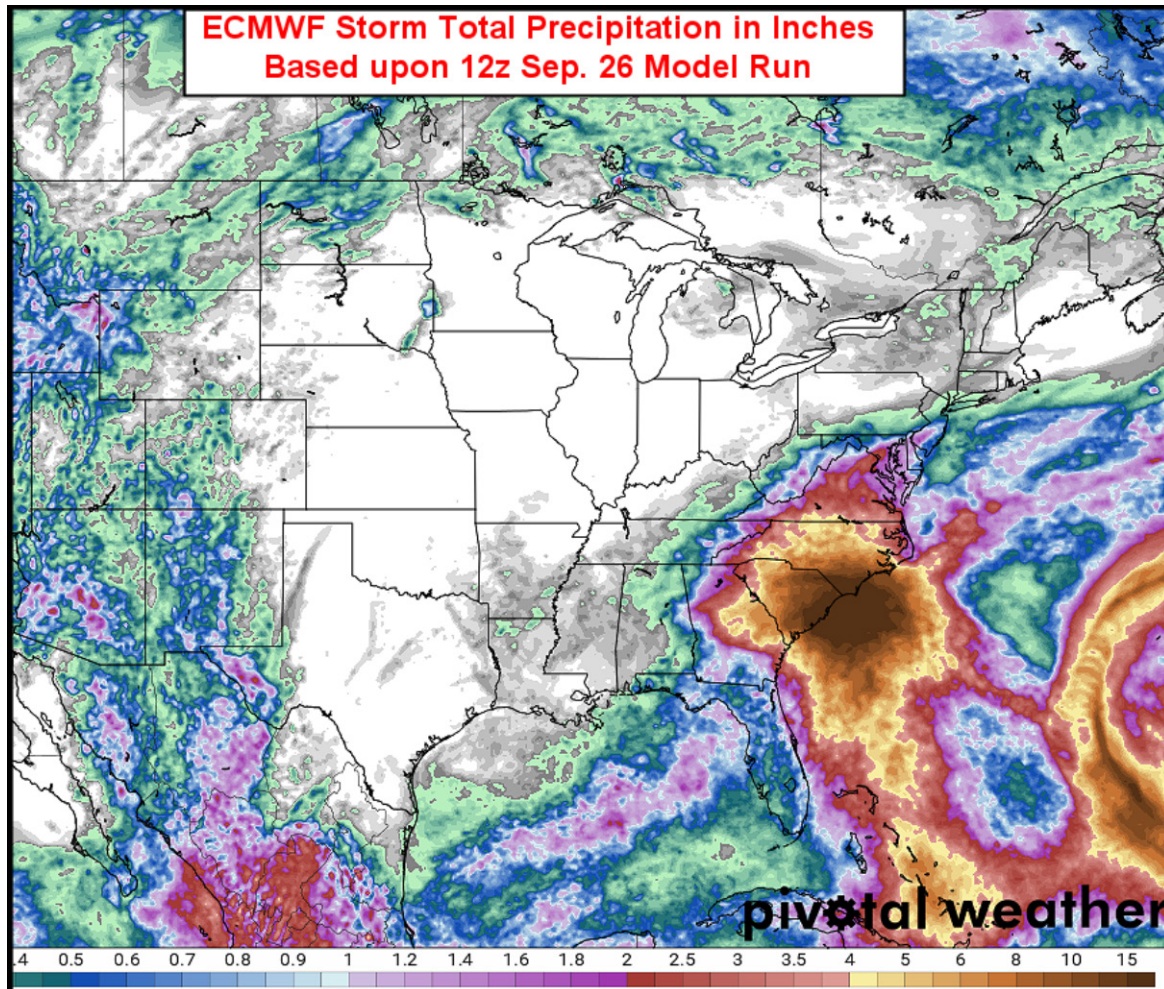


After Humberto passes around Bermuda (first to the west and then to the north of the island) the storm will move out to sea. As Humberto moves away from the U.S. its wind field trying to pull Imelda off to the east will dissipate and the trough over the U.S. southeastern states and the surface high pressure in Canada will work together to pull Imelda into the Carolinas.

The problem with this scenario is that it will likely allow torrential rain to fall over the eastern Carolinas over two to three days and that could result in 8.00 to more than 15.00 inches of rain resulting in serious flooding and potential damage to crops. There is also potential for damaging wind to impact the Carolinas if the tropical cyclone gets too strong before coming inland.

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Weather pattern changes are possible during the weekend and people living in the Carolinas will be watching most closely to determine what actions must be taken. For now the stage seems to be set for a rain/flood event that may damage crops and property.



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