

## METEOROLOGY

# Still Hurricane Season

Weather patterns until middle of October show likelihood of formation of strong winds in the Gulf and off the coast of the West Indies.

➤ THE HURRICANE season is not over yet. Weather maps predicting general weather patterns until mid-October give indications for the "probable formation of more hurricanes, both in the Gulf and sweeping across the southeastern United States, and off the northeastern coast of the West Indies, then swinging up off the Atlantic Coast," Jerome Namias, long-range weather expert of the U. S. Weather Bureau in Washington, D. C., sees.

The broad-scale atmospheric flow patterns until mid-October suggest that the paths of the Atlantic hurricanes are "closer to coastal areas than normal," Mr. Namias said.

However, he stressed that, as the season goes on, the prevailing westerly winds of the upper atmosphere will tend to work farther south. As they do this, hurricane paths will tend to be forced farther eastward as the tropical storms reach the latitudes of New England.

Mr. Namias said that the Weather Bureau long-range forecasts give only "highly general indications" of future weather, not specific predictions. The present forecast should not be used as an immediate warning of impending hurricanes. Rather it indicates the general conditions for breeding and steering the destructive tropical storms.

"I would be amazed," Mr. Namias said, "if there were not another hurricane formed, posing problems of predicting its path to forecasters somewhere along the coastal areas of the United States."

The 30-day weather forecasts are contained in three charts that show the outlook for temperatures, precipitation and pressures. The pressure chart shows the "principal cyclone track" over the Atlantic is closer to the East Coast than normal, as it has been since before the first of September. It was, however, farther east in the mid-September 30-day prediction than it was in the previous one.

The principal cyclone track shows the most likely paths of cyclonic storms, of which hurricanes are the most violent and destructive.

On the pressure chart for this long-range forecast, the track starts in the southern Atlantic, swings westward above Cuba, then northward near Bermuda and up the East Coast off Cape Hatteras and Newfoundland, finally passing near Norway.

One prong of the track starts in the Caribbean Sea, swings up to New Orleans, then across land to the Atlantic, where it joins the Atlantic track off Cape Hatteras.

Severe storms, and hurricanes, following the latter path, would lose much of their steam over the long land path across southeastern United States.

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## BOTANY

## Discovers Hybrid Plant Unlike Either Parent

➤ HYBRID PLANTS, which do not resemble either parent and may some day be classed as a new species, have been discovered by Dr. Reed Clark Rollins, director of the Gray Herbarium at Harvard University.

The description of what is believed to be the first natural plant hybridization reported was presented by Dr. Rollins at the Eighth International Botanical Conference in Paris.

Colonies of the plants, known as *Lesquerella*, were found in north central Tennessee. *Lesquerella* is a member of the mustard family and closely resembles the

yellow-flowered alyssum, golden-tuft, or basket-of-gold.

The existence of these hybrids, whose change-over from the characteristics of their parents probably occurred when man first settled the area 200 years ago, is of interest to scientists because most hybrids usually regain the appearance of one or the other of the parents.

"There is now evidence," Dr. Rollins stated, "that evolution is being given a major assist in the world of plants by the natural hybridization of existing species of a radically different kind."

All colonies found, some of which have moved 40 miles from the original parental species, live and thrive independently. The hybrid populations have become well established over many generations and appear to be well on their way to becoming completely separate from their original ancestors.

Science News Letter, October 9, 1954

## ASTRONOMY

## Comet Wirtanen Is Rediscovered

➤ A VERY faint comet known as Wirtanen Comet, first spotted in 1948, has been rediscovered by Dr. Hamilton M. Jeffers and Miss Elizabeth Roemer of Lick Observatory, Mt. Hamilton, Calif. The 18th magnitude comet is too faint to be seen except in the largest telescopes. It is in the constellation of Cancer, the crab.

Science News Letter, October 9, 1954



**STRANGE HYBRID**—The hybrid *Lesquerella* plant shown in the center has semi-oval seed pods different from either parent, shown on left and right. But the hybrid plants also bear seed pods somewhat similar to those of the parents. Existence of colonies of the different hybrids is unusual because it is the normal tendency of naturally-occurring plant hybrids to cross back and regain the characteristics of one or the other parent.