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Hurricane Idalia's impact on Florida growers

By

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On Aug. 30, Hurricane Idalia made landfall in Florida and caused havoc for many due to 125-mile-per-hour winds, serious flooding, downed trees and loss of power.

While a limited number of Florida's growers saw significant impacts in the Big Bend region, according to the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association, much of the state's specialty crop growers were spared.

"Hurricane Idalia brought heavy rain, high winds and a dangerous storm surge to the Big Bend region of Florida," said Christina Morton, director of communications for the FFVA. "That's the area of the state where the panhandle meets the peninsula and it is less populated. Based on early reports, we are grateful to hear that our family and friends who were in the impacted communities are safe. Though the storm certainly left its mark."

For growers who were able, normal operations resumed on Thursday. In fact, the majority of the state's industry is set to begin planting next week in preparation for harvest in November.

"Any time we experience a weather event in Florida, we are reminded of the great care and commitment of our growers, who work tirelessly to ensure millions of Americans have access to fresh fruits and vegetables," Morton said.

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About Keith Loria |

A graduate of the University of Miami, Keith Loria is a D.C.-based award-winning journalist who has been writing for major publications for close to 20 years on topics as diverse as real estate, food and sports. He started his career with the Associated Press and has held high editorial positions at magazines aimed at healthcare, sports and technology. When not busy writing, he can be found enjoying time with his wife, Patricia, and two daughters, Jordan and Cassidy.

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