



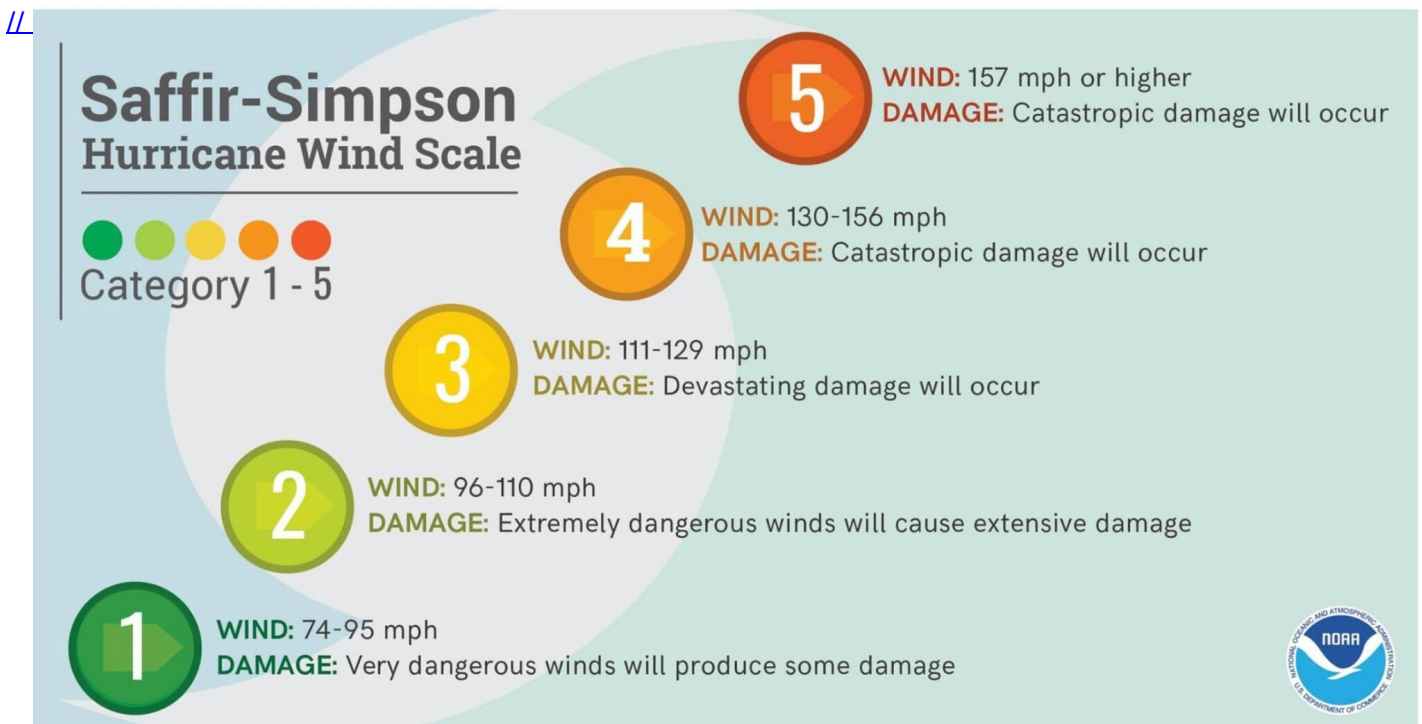
# Hurricane Laura

## Why in News

Hurricane Laura, has made landfall in southwestern Louisiana (South Central United States) with wind speeds reaching up to 250 km (about 150 miles) an hour.

## Key Points

- **Description:** Hurricane Laura is a **Category 4 storm**.
  - A Category 4 storm has wind speeds between 130-156 mph and can uproot trees and bring down power lines.
- **The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale:** Hurricanes are categorized on the **Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale**, which rates them on a scale of 1 to 5 based on wind speed.
  - Hurricanes that reach category **three or higher** are classified as **major hurricanes**.
    - It is because of their potential to cause devastating damage to property and life.



- **Timings of Hurricane:**

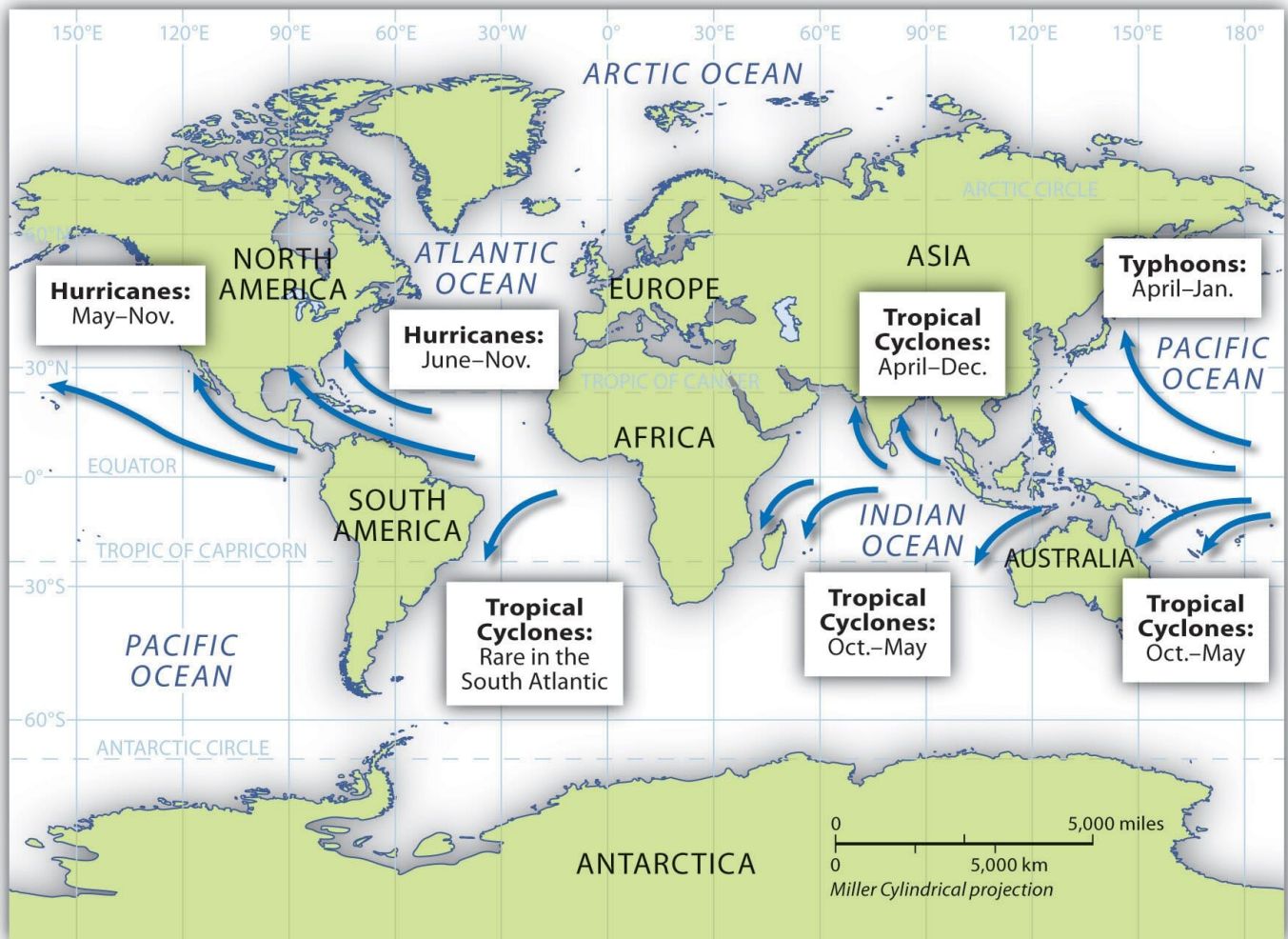
- Two seasons of hurricanes are observed in the Atlantic and Pacific regions:

- The **Atlantic hurricane season** runs from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> November .
- The **Eastern Pacific hurricane season** runs from 15<sup>th</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> November.
- **Hurricane Hanna:** It was the last storm which made landfall on the Texan coast reaching wind speeds of up to 90 mph, and was listed as a **Category 1** storm.
  - It was the **first** hurricane of the 2020 **Atlantic hurricane season**.

#### ▪ Hurricane:

- **Origin:** Tropical cyclones or hurricanes use **warm, moist air as fuel**, and therefore **form over warm Equatorial water**.
- **Mechanism:**
  - **Low-Pressure Creation:** When the **warm, moist air rises upward** from the surface of the ocean, it creates an area of **low air pressure below**.
    - When this happens, the **air from the surrounding areas rushes** to fill this place, eventually rising when it becomes warm and moist too.
    - An **eye** forms in the centre. It is the calmest part of the cyclone. Before the wind reaches the centre it gets warmed up and rises upwards.
  - When the **warm air rises and cools off**, the moisture forms clouds. This system of clouds and winds continues to grow and spin.
  - This disturbance is fuelled by the ocean's heat and the water that evaporates from its surface.
  - Such storm systems rotate faster and faster.
  - Storms that form towards the north of the equator rotate **counterclockwise**, while those that form to the **south spin clockwise because** of the rotation of the Earth.

#### Worldwide Terminology of [Tropical Cyclones](#):



- Depending on where they occur, hurricanes may be called typhoons or cyclones. They are given many names in different regions of the world:
  - **Typhoons:** tropical cyclones are known as Typhoons in the China Sea and Pacific Ocean.
  - **Hurricanes:** In the West Indian islands in the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean.
  - **Tornados:** In the Guinea lands of West Africa and southern USA.
  - **Willy-willies:** In north-western Australia and
  - **Tropical Cyclones:** In the Indian Ocean Region.

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