



Derecho

Why in News?

Recently, a few States of US were hit by a storm system called a Derecho, turning Sky Green.

- They mostly **occur across central and eastern parts** of the United States. In 2009 **“Super Derecho” was one of the “most intense and unusual derechos ever observed”** in the US as it swept from Kansas to Kentucky (US States) with wind speeds reaching up to 170 km/hr.
- In 2010, **Russia witnessed its first documented derecho**. They have also swept through **Germany and Finland, and more recently in Bulgaria and Poland**.



What is Derecho?

▪ About:

- A Derecho is **“a widespread, long-lived, straight-line windstorm”** that is associated with a **“band of rapidly moving showers or thunderstorms”**.
 - The **name comes from the Spanish word ‘la derecha’** which means ‘straight’.
- Straight-line storms are **those in which thunderstorm winds have no rotation unlike a tornado**. These storms travel hundreds of miles and cover a vast area.
- It is a **warm-weather phenomenon** that generally occurs in June and July.
- They are **a rare occurrence as compared to other storm** systems like tornadoes or [hurricanes](#).

▪ Types:

◦ Progressive:

- A progressive derecho is associated with **a short line of thunderstorms that may travel for hundreds of miles** along a relatively narrow path.
- It is a summer phenomenon.

◦ Serial:

- A serial derecho, on the other hand, **has an extensive squall line - wide and long - sweeping across a large area**.
- It usually occurs during spring or fall.

◦ Hybrid:

- Hybrid ones have the **features of both progressive and serial derechos**.

What Makes Sky Green Amid Derecho?

- Severe thunderstorms result in a 'green sky' **due to light interacting with the huge amount of water they hold.**
- The **big raindrops and hail scatter away all but the blue wavelengths** due to which primarily blue light penetrates below the storm cloud.
- This blue then combines with the red-yellow of the afternoon or the evening sun to produce green.

[Source: IE](#)

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