



# May Tip of The Month

## Lightning, Strong Winds, and Hail

### Lightning

Each year over 300 people in the U.S. are struck by lightning while working outside or during other outdoor activities. Outdoors is the most dangerous place to be during a thunderstorm. Watch for darkening cloud bases and head to safety before that first lightning flash. If you can hear thunder, the storm is close enough that it could strike your location. If you can possibly run to a vehicle or building, do so! Sitting or crouching on the ground is not safe and should be used only as a last resort.



### Wind and Hail

#### Straight line winds

Winds generated from this process can exceed 100 mph. Weather forecasters call these bursts of wind “microbursts” if they are less than 2 1/2 miles across and “macrobursts” if they are greater than 2 1/2 miles across. These downbursts of air can be detrimental to aircraft and can cause extensive damage, injuries and fatalities. Staying indoors when thunderstorms are present is good protocol.

#### Hail

Hailstones may vary from pea-size to larger than softballs. Hailstones can do tremendous damage to farm crops, either as large hailstones or as an entourage of small hailstones that accumulate to a depth of several inches. Large hail can easily damage vehicles and buildings and can be life-threatening to animals and people. Even small hail can be dangerous to motorists when it accumulates on roadways.

