

	Atlantic		Eastern Pacific	
	Average	El Niño Avg.	Average	El Niño Avg.
Named storms	9.4	7.1	16.7	17.6
Hurricanes	5.8	4.0	9.8	10.0
Intense Hurricanes	2.5	1.5	4.8	5.5

Table 1. Frequency of hurricanes for the Atlantic and eastern Pacific during “Average” and El Niño years. Data from the Dept. of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Illinois.

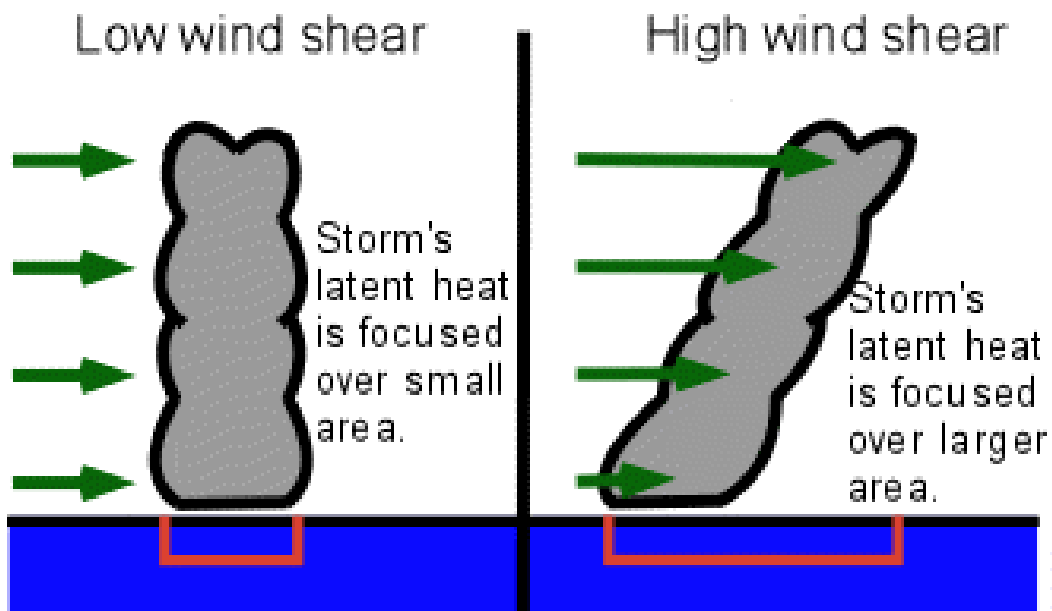


Figure 15. Sketch portraying the effect of wind shear on hurricane development. Wind shear is defined as the amount of change in the wind's direction or speed with increasing altitude. When the wind shear is weak, the storms grow vertically, and heat from condensation is released into the air directly above the storm, aiding in development. When there is stronger wind shear, the storms become more slanted and the release of heat is dispersed over a much larger area limiting storm development. Image courtesy of Dept. of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Illinois ([http://ww2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/\(Gh\)/guides/mtr/hurr/enso.rxml](http://ww2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/(Gh)/guides/mtr/hurr/enso.rxml)).