

A-maize-ing Tornado Footprint

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Tornadoes often land in rural areas damaging a large area of corn field. They leave intriguing fall patterns that can be analyzed to help us estimate the tornado wind field. The estimating wind speed of tornado is extremely difficult because there are no instruments that can withstand the destructive nature of tornado. Even radar has limitations because it cannot measure wind speed near-surface. A safe and novel way to estimate the tornado wind speed is to look at the corn-fall pattern after the tornado. We look at the aerial photos of the corn field in the tornado track analyze the flow pattern of the tornado by studying the corn-fall pattern. We can back calculate the near-surface tornado wind field, which can be eventually used to help build tornado-resisting structures.