



Severe Freeze Kills Cold Sensitive Crops

Fact Sheet

Event date: February 5, and March 11, 1996
Extremes: Brooksville - 21F

Extremes: Tampa - 25F
Extremes: St. Petersburg - 28F

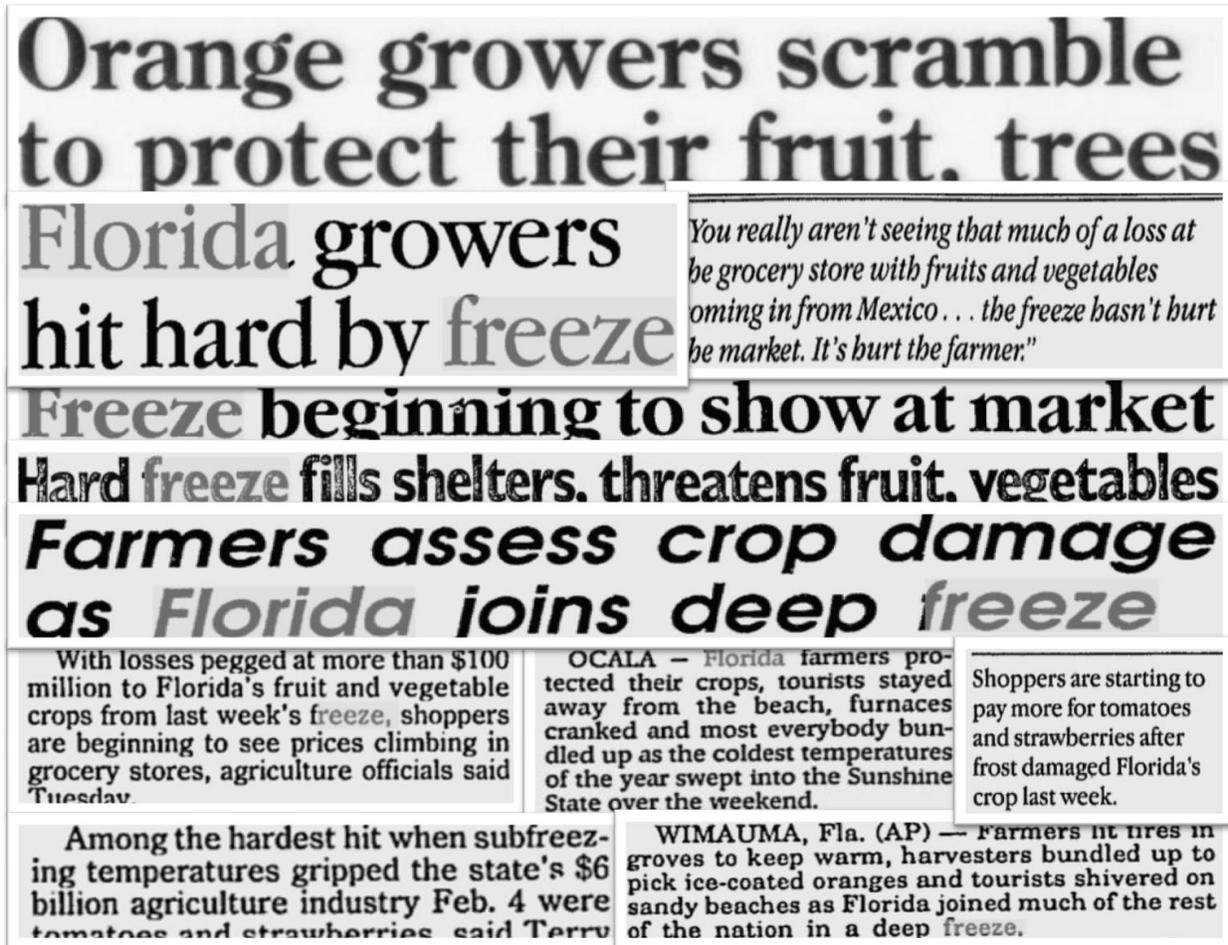


Figure 1. Newspaper headlines and clippings from various Florida newspapers indicating the severity of the freeze.

Summary of event:

The coldest temperatures since the "Christmas freeze" of 1989 caused damage to fruit and vegetable crops in south Florida. Especially hard hit were tomatoes, bell peppers and melons in Collier and Hendry counties and sugar cane in Palm Beach County. Minimum temperatures were in the upper 20s in Glades, Hendry and Collier counties, and in the lower to mid 30s over the remainder of the south Florida peninsula.



Strong winds caused wind chill values in the teens, and disrupted electrical service to over 20,000 customers. Shelters were opened in several counties. At least one space heater initiated fire occurred. \$74.9 million in damage to crops alone meant a difficult winter for farmers.

Links for more information:

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=ia4sAAAAIBAJ&sjid=JxUEAAAAIBAJ&dq=florida%20freeze&pg=6911%2C1840800>.

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=vm8fAAAAIBAJ&sjid=6XwEAAAAIBAJ&dq=florida%20freeze&pg=5013%2C309284>.

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=sRYcAAAAIBAJ&sjid=6HwEAAAAIBAJ&dq=florida%20freeze&pg=6291%2C6211493>.

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=sRYcAAAAIBAJ&sjid=6HwEAAAAIBAJ&dq=florida%20freeze&pg=6588%2C6212549>.

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=ljwxAAAAIBAJ&sjid=ewcEAAAAIBAJ&dq=florida%20freeze&pg=5891%2C2582585>.

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=etcgAAAAIBAJ&sjid=DmsFAAAAAIBAJ&dq=florida%20freeze&pg=5267%2C3167950>.

Acknowledgements: The National Climatic Data Center.