

Freeze Damages Crops, 1962

Fact Sheet

Event date: Freeze of 1962

Event Severity: Tampa, FL reached 18° F

Event Severity: Lakeland, FL reached 20° F



Figure 1. City officials examining frozen crops.

Summary of event:

During the winter freezes of 1962, Tampa, FL saw temperatures as low as 18° F (-7.7° C), and Lakeland, FL saw 20° F (-6.6° C). Citrus fruits saw some damage, but what was remarkable was the loss of winter vegetables. Cabbage, beets, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, lettuce, and spinach were severely damaged. Three-fourths of the 70% of the winter cabbage left to be harvested was lost. Prices on snap beans more than doubled, along with sweet corn prices. This freeze was so severe that it caused the most damage to trees and fruit of any other 20th century freeze to date.



Figure 2. Pictures and newspaper clippings.

Links for more information:

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics by State/Florida/Publications/hist sum pdf/citrus/ci/inventory%20of%20commerical%20citrus-1963.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics%20by%20State/Florida/Publications/hist%20sum%20pdf/citrus/ci/inventory%20of%20commerical%20citrus-1963.pdf).

[http://www.flcitrusmutual.com/industry-issues/weather/freeze timeline.aspx](http://www.flcitrusmutual.com/industry-issues/weather/freeze%20timeline.aspx).

Acknowledgements: The St. Petersburg Times, January 2, 1962. The Milwaukee Sentinel, January 3, 1962. Lakeland Ledger, January 5, 1962. Spokane Daily Chronicle, January 10, 1962. Eugene Register – Guard, January 13, 1962. Ocala Star Banner, January 14, 1962. Ellensburg Daily Record, January 15, 1962. Pittsburgh Post Gazette, January 16, 1962.