



Great Florida Freeze of 1835

Fact Sheet

Event date: Freeze of February 2-9, 1835

Summary of event: According to Warren Johnson, Meteorologist In Charge in 1958, the freeze of 1835 was the most severe of all historically significant freezes in the state of Florida. During this freeze, the St. Johns River was frozen, “several rods from the shore,” and people were able to walk a distance from the shore. Many citrus and other fruit trees were killed to the ground, never to grow again, when temperatures reached as low as 1°F in Charleston and 8°F in Jacksonville. A Florida gentleman told a newspaper that the state, “appeared as desolate as if a fire had swept over it,” after the severe freeze of that winter season. According to Florida Citrus Mutual, this freeze was so severe that it is considered an impact freeze. This indicates that the freeze, “annihilate[d] entire groves across the state, killing both mature and young citrus trees, while causing a profound economic impact on the citrus industry and... prompting growers to replant farther south.” This freeze ended attempts to grow citrus in southern Georgia, southeast South Carolina, and northern Florida.

Links for more information:

http://www.flcitrusmutual.com/industry-issues/weather/freeze_timeline.aspx.

Acknowledgements: “Florida Freezes of 1957-1958” by Warren Johnson. Pittsburgh Daily Gazette, 1835. Zierden, David: Multidecadal Variability of Temperature and Precipitation in the Southeast U.S.