Freeze Destroys Crops in Florida

Fact Sheet

Event date: January and February, 1905

Event severity: Plant City, FL 15°F Event severity: Brooksville, FL 18°F Event severity: Tarpon Springs, FL 21°F

Event severity: St. Leo, FL 22°F Event severity: Tampa, FL 23°F

SEVERE FROST.

DESTROYS PLORIDA FRUIT CRO

NEW YORK, Jan. 30.

The hope that the first accounts of the There will be more cold weather to-damage done to the fruit and vectableday, and a gradual rising of temperature crops in Florida by last week's freeze in at the week's end. Even down in usual that State might be modified have been balmy Florida the cold snap was severely effectually extinguished. A prominent felt, for in Jacksonville it was as cold commission firm, which owns numerous as it was here during the highest temper orange groves and cultivates vegetables ature of yesterday, while tropical Jupis in the frost-visited territory, said to-day ter and Tampa could only coax the mer that not only were the oranges on the cury up as high as 22 degrees. It was no trees frozen as hard as stones, but the colder in Duluth than it was here while fruit in packing-houses was also frozen the thermometer was doing its worst.

Figure 1. Newspaper article on frost severity.

Summary of event: The freeze of 1905 was extremely severe, and caused untold amounts of damage to the citrus and winter vegetable industry in Florida. Some citrus groves were killed to the ground, and oranges were, "frozen as hard as stones." A prominent commission firm at the time said that the citrus groves were, "practically annihilated," and that the farmers and the produce merchants experienced heavy financial loss due to the severity of the freeze.

Acknowledgements: The New York Times, January 27, 1905. Poverty Bay Herald, February 21, 1905.