

Freeze Does Extensive Damage, 1934

Fact Sheet

Event: Freeze of 1934 Event severity: Brooksville, FL 20°F Event severity: Plant City, FL 21°F Event severity: Saint Leo, FL 22°F Event severity: Tampa, FL 27°F Crop loss: ~14 million boxes



Figure 1. Fat lighters stacked in an orange grove in anticipation of the freeze.

Summary of event:

A brutal December cold front brought freezing temperatures to much of Florida, including a reading of 20°F in Brooksville, FL. Several other locations saw temperatures in the low 20's causing severe damage to crops across the state. Many farmers experienced such severe damage that newspapers headlined, "Many Farmers Are Ruined." It was estimated that 14 million boxes of citrus fruit were lost in the worst freeze since 1895. This freeze was so severe that it led to the creation of the Federal-State Frost Warning Service.



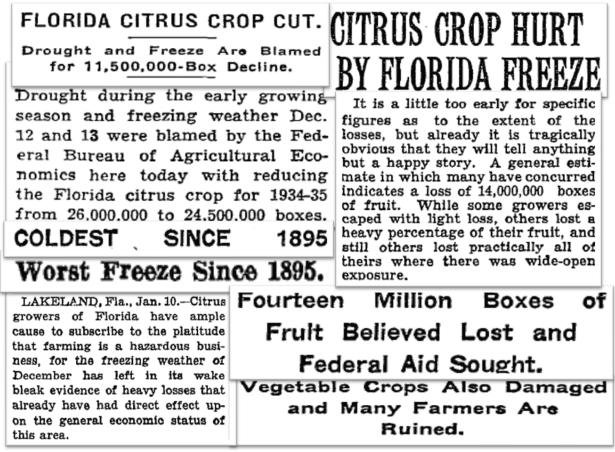


Figure 2. Newspaper headlines and various clippings

Links for more information:

http://www.fshs.org/Proceedings/Password%20Protected/1940%20Vol.%2053/115-120%20(ELLISON).pdf. http://www.flcitrusmutual.com/industryissues/weather/freeze_timeline.aspx.

Acknowledgments: The New York Times, January 13, 1935. Florida Photographic Collection.