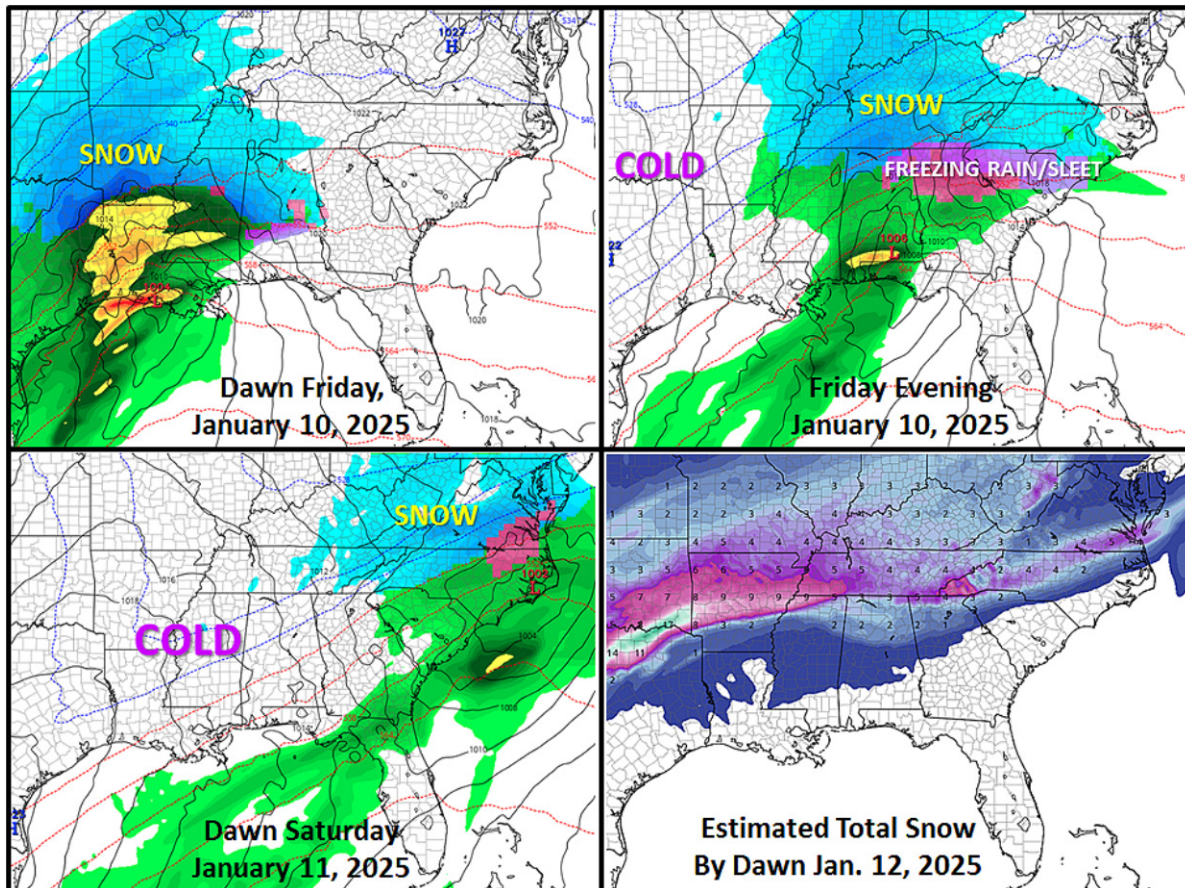


SE U.S. Cold Should Spare Sugarcane, Citrus From Serious Harm

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, January 8 (World Weather Inc.) – A series of cold air masses continue to pass through the southeastern one third of the United States keeping the region near and south of the Ohio River Valley colder than usual. A winter storm passing through the Delta to the middle and southern Atlantic Coast States Thursday into Saturday will reinforce this trend and maintain some very cold weather in the Gulf of Mexico Coast States. *Frost and a few light freezes will occur in Louisiana sugarcane and some northern Florida citrus areas, but the intensity of the cold should stop short of causing a serious threat to 2025 production.* Other crops in northern Florida and the southeastern states will be impacted by the cold, although recovery is expected without much concern over future development.

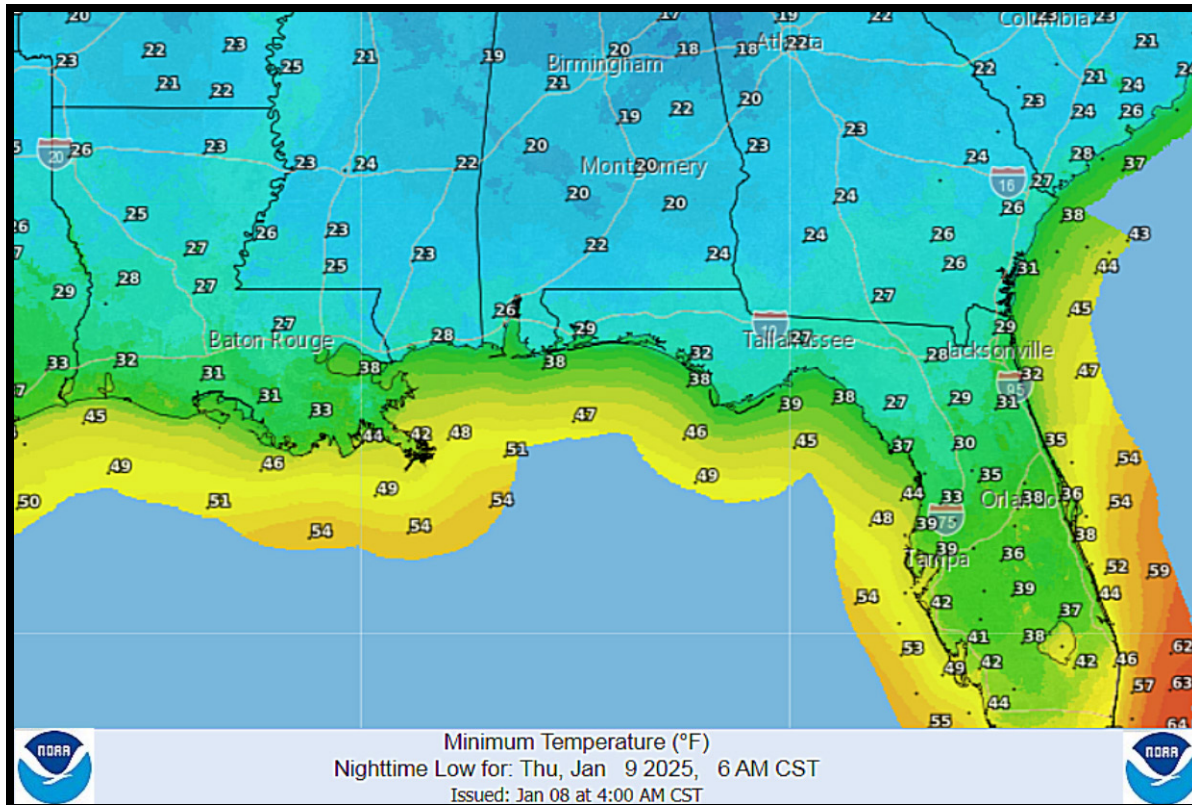


Cold air is already present across a big part of the Midwest and central U.S. Plains. Temperatures this morning were in the positive and negative single digits Fahrenheit from North Dakota, Minnesota and western Wisconsin southward to Kansas, Missouri and Illinois. Similar conditions are expected in the heavily snow covered areas in the lower Midwest Thursday morning as well as in a few areas in the Great Lakes region.

Some cool temperatures will extend from the Midwest to the Gulf of Mexico coast states over the next few mornings with lows in the upper 20s and 30s occurring from Louisiana to northern Florida. A storm system moving through the Delta and southeastern states Thursday night into Saturday will help to draw a little more of the coldest air

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southward during the weekend perpetuating similar conditions. The nightly low temperatures in the upper 20s and lower 30s will bring a little damage to sugarcane in Louisiana and to many crops in northern Florida. ***However, these temperatures are not going to be low enough for a long enough period of time to induce any serious, permanent, impact on 2025 production.***



Sugarcane in Louisiana may suffer from a little leaf mass damage, but plants will recover with periods of rain and mild temperatures during the balance of winter and early spring. A similar situation is expected in northern Florida crop areas. Thursday and Sunday into Monday should be coldest.

Most of the key citrus production areas in central Florida will not experience temperatures below freezing for a long enough period of time to seriously harm developing fruit. Minor production areas in northern Florida will experience temperatures low enough to burn some of the citrus tree leaves, causing some droppage, but there will be sufficient time for the vegetative damage to be repaired prior to the spring flowering season. The stressful conditions may lead to a more profuse flowering of minor citrus production areas in the north of Florida.

Other crops in the southeastern states should survive the cold relatively well. This includes other flowering deciduous fruit trees, wheat, tree nuts, strawberries and other crops produced in the region.

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