

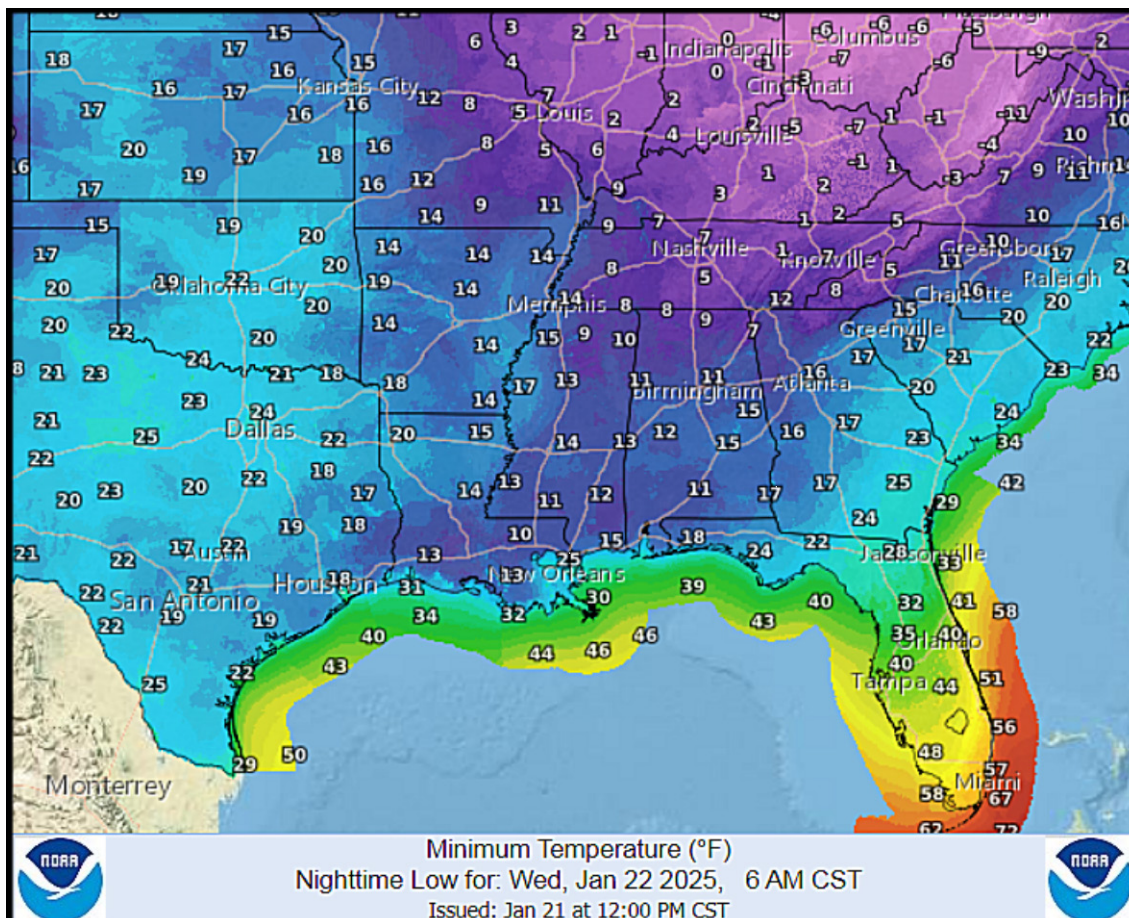
Frost, Freezes In South Texas, NE Mexico Tonight

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, January 21 (World Weather Inc.) – Frost and freeze conditions have already been noted southward into interior southern Texas and along the entire central U.S. Gulf of Mexico coast this morning. The same areas will be impacted again tonight with the cold digging farther to the south through all of South Texas and into northeastern Mexico.

An impact on fruit and vegetable crops is expected with some production cut possible for a few crops. Most of the damage to fruit trees and sugarcane is not expected to be very great, but some impacted is expected.

Low temperatures in the 20s Fahrenheit will reach through all of South Texas and much of north-central and northeastern Mexico overnight tonight. The impact will be great on some fruit and vegetable crops that were experiencing temperatures in the 70s and lower 80s late last week and early in the weekend. Sugarcane and citrus are produced in the region along with many other fruits and vegetables.



Irrigation will be applied to help protect some of the crops from damage, but losses are expected. Temperatures in sugarcane areas will not be low enough for a long enough period of time to seriously impact the crop, but a little damage should be expected. Texas does not produce nearly as much sugarcane as it once did. Similarly, citrus trees in South

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Texas will feel the impact of frost and freezes, although temperatures should not be low enough for a long enough period of time to induce serious damage to any unharvested fruit or blossom buds for the coming year.

A similar statement can be made for citrus in northeastern Mexico. Temperatures in Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas and neighboring states will get low enough for frost and freezes, though damage to fruit and trees is unlikely to be very great. Flowering usually occurs in February and/or March and it is believed that little of that has occurred thus far.

Warming will return to southern Texas and northeastern Mexico Thursday morning. In the meantime, bitter cold in Louisiana will occur tonight with lows in the teens and 20s to the Gulf of Mexico coast. Snowfall today has varied from 3 to more than 8 inches and may help to protect some of the sugarcane from permanent damage. Thursday morning is expected to still be quite cold in Louisiana, although some warming relative to Wednesday morning is anticipated.

Most of the bitter cold in in the Gulf of Mexico Coast States should stay north of the primary citrus and sugarcane areas of Florida during the next few days, although conditions will be cool. *Some damage is possible minor citrus and other fruit bearing trees and plants in northern Florida and southern Georgia, but the impact should be low with some crops having the opportunity to recover.*

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