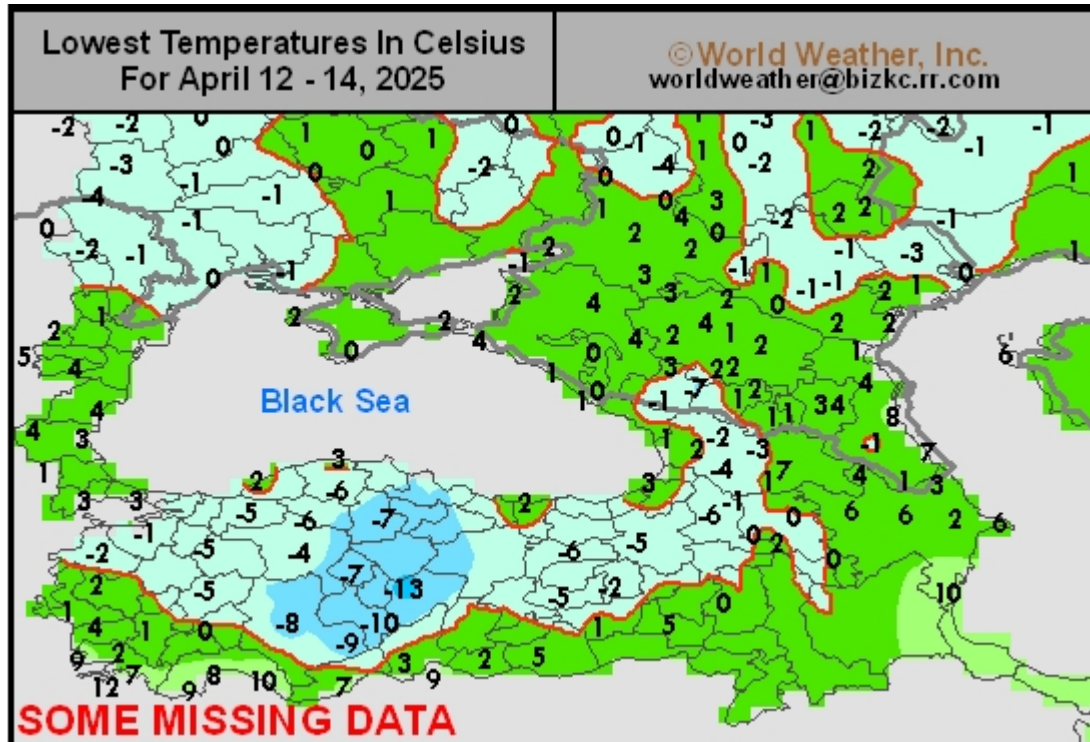


Turkey Freeze Damage Greatest To Fruits, Vegetables

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, April 14 (World Weather Inc.) – Unusually cold weather occurred in Turkey during the weekend and this morning dropping temperatures well below freezing and well below normal. The cold damaged many crops, but fruits and vegetables were among those most seriously impacted. Wheat and barley damage may have also occurred, although the impact on those crops may be more limited to a part of Central and southeastern Anatolia where temperatures were quite warm a week ago.



Hard freezes occurred in much of the northern two-thirds of Turkey the past couple of mornings with lows in the 20s Fahrenheit and a few readings slipping into the teens. Some of the traditionally coldest areas got down to the single digits Fahrenheit which is quite unusual for this time of year. The cold was accompanied by some snow and the snow cover charts do not show the snow coverage as being great enough to protect all crops.

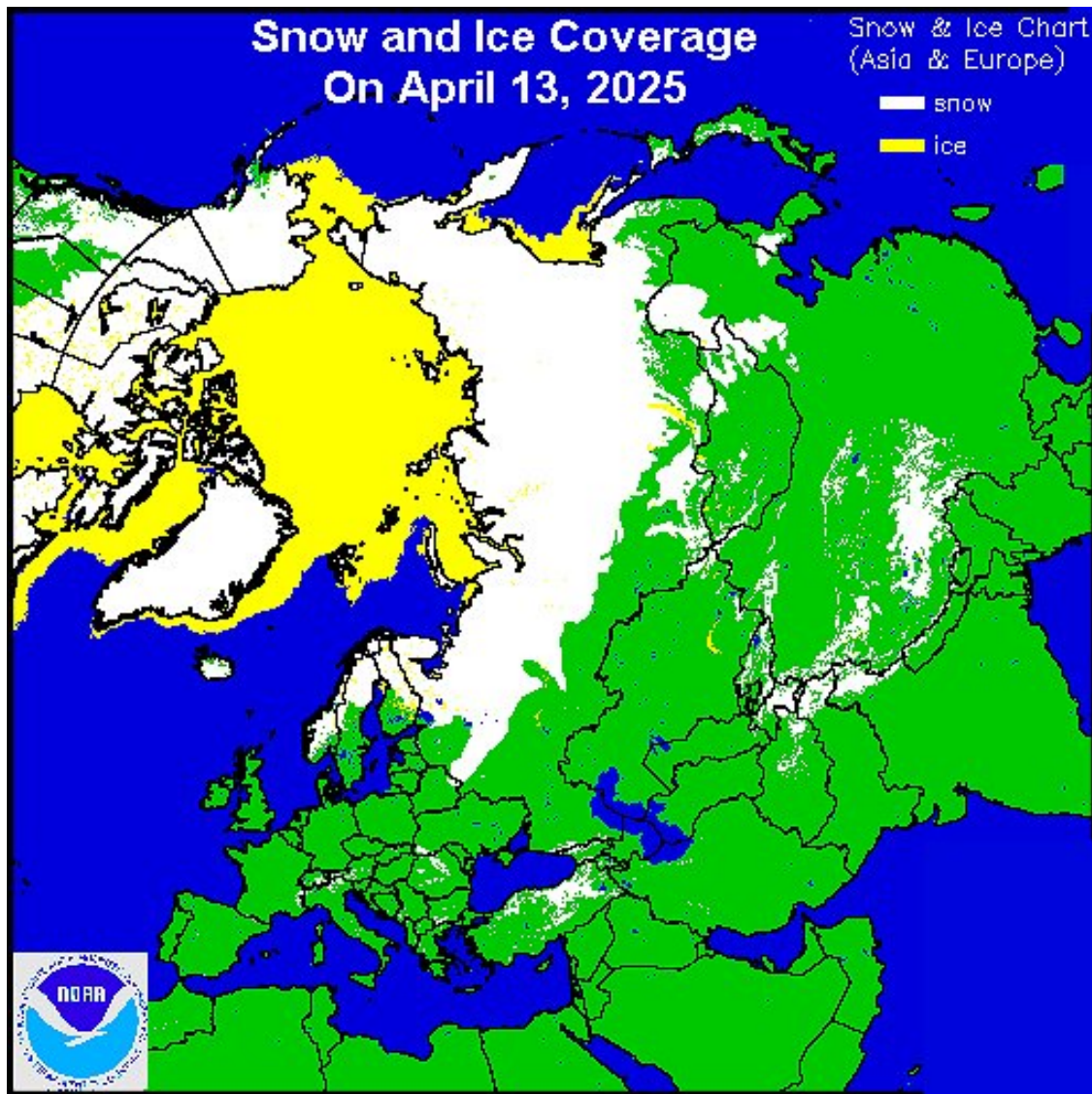
Irrigation was used in some areas to help offset the bitter cold conditions for fruit, vegetable and nut trees, but the cold was probably too great in some areas to prevent notable losses. Crops were enticed to come out of dormancy and begin budding and flowering in many areas by temperatures that were well above normal earlier this month. Some high temperatures earlier this month peaked in the 70s and 80s Fahrenheit and as significant as that sounds such temperatures only lasted a couple of days. Nonethe less, many days of above freezing nighttime temperatures and highs in the 60s and 70s Fahrenheit were sufficient to induce citrus and deciduous tree and nut flowering.

The sudden cold was a little more potent than expected and its impact has likely been quite significant to many crops. Wheat and barley were impacted, as well, although early indications do not suggest the impact was as severe as it was on fruit and vegetables.

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Some pulse crops may have been impacted as well, although some replanting of those crops will be possible. It is unclear how far along the wheat and barley were when the cold hit, but World Weather, Inc. speculates the impact was low. *A part of Central and Southeast Anatolia will suffer the greatest potential decline in wheat and barley production because that is where some of the warmest and coldest conditions evolved.*

Wheat and barley leaf damage will be widespread, but the question is how serious was the cold to the plants' reproductive parts? *Most likely the bulk of crops were not far enough advanced to suffer a widespread catastrophic impact on production potentials, but there are some county-sized areas that may have suffered such conditions due to snow free conditions and some of the coldest temperatures.* Damage assessments will be forthcoming, although the full extent of the losses for small grains may not be known until the harvest. Fruit and vegetable damage will be more readily visible in the next few days while the impact on nut production may not be known for a few weeks.



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