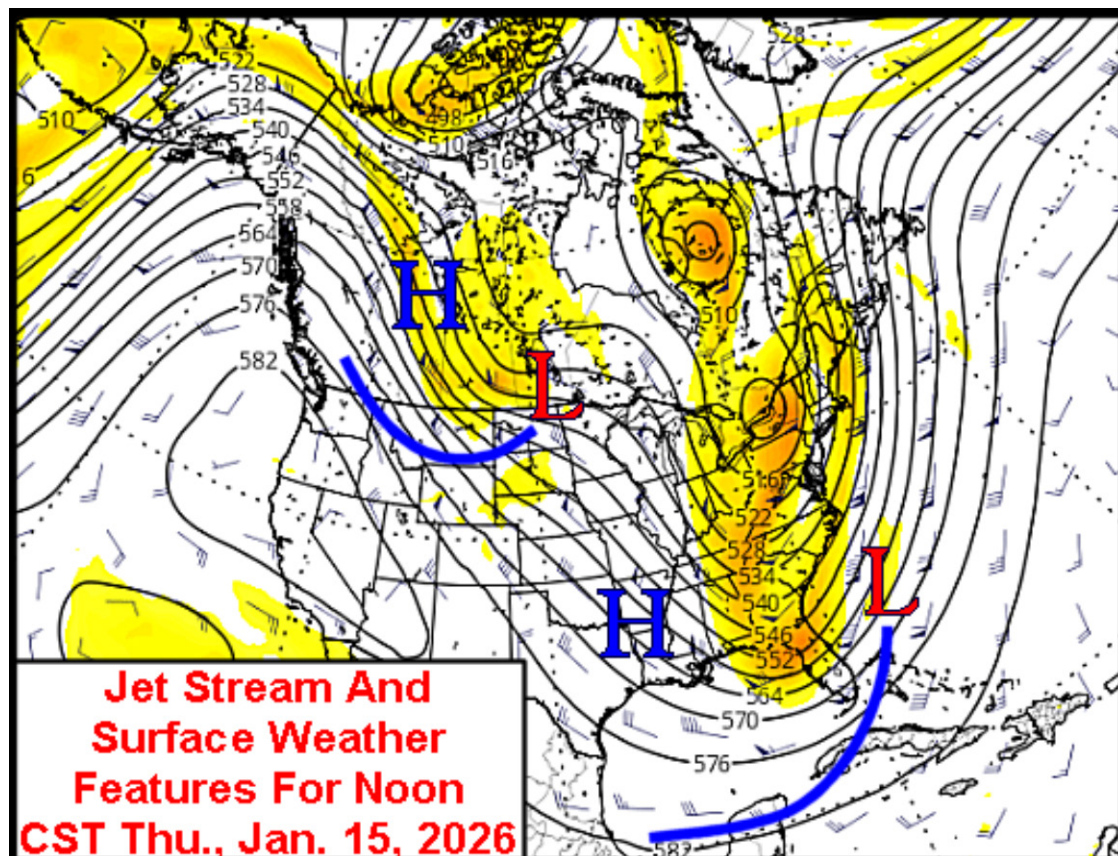


Florida Citrus To See Frost, Light Freezes Friday

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 13 (World Weather Inc.) – A strong upper-level trough of low pressure will intensify and expand over eastern North America in the coming days. The trough will help send colder air across the eastern United States through the end of the workweek with cold air reaching Florida by Friday morning. **This cold front will help promote frost and light freezes for portions of Florida's citrus and other fruit and vegetable growing areas. Northern fringes of citrus country could see temperatures drop as low as 28 degrees Fahrenheit for brief periods of time while only patchy frost is expected farther south. Spray irrigation will likely be used to protect citrus ahead of the cold front. Overall production impacts should be minimal for Florida's citrus.**

Precipitation was limited in much of Florida's citrus region during the past week. Temperatures were often warmer than usual as well with daytime highs often reaching the upper 70s to mid-80s Fahrenheit. Nighttime lows were in the 50s and lower 60s with brief periods where temperatures dipped to the upper 30s and 40s. The lack of rain and warm daytime temperatures was supportive of aggressive harvesting and farming activity.



The first cold front to impact Florida will advance over eastern North America later today through Friday. This cold front will be relatively slow-moving and temperatures will initially trend near normal through Wednesday. Colder air will spread across the region over the course of the day Thursday and remain through Friday. A cold high-pressure center will

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accompany the front boundary and help drop temperatures to the upper 20s and 30s Friday morning.

Some of the coldest conditions Friday morning will occur in Polk, Hillsborough, and Pinellas Counties with lows reaching 28 degrees for brief periods of time. Neighboring counties, including Manatee, Sarasota, Hardee, De Soto, and Highlands Counties will likely see temperatures drop near or slightly below freezing as well. Patchy frost will be possible in a few other production areas. Patchy frost will also be possible Saturday morning, though no damaging conditions are expected. Another frontal boundary could promote frost early next week.

The waves of cold air later in the forecast period are not expected to promote significant citrus damage in much of Florida. Producers will likely use spray irrigation ahead of the cold snaps to protect citrus in the coldest locations. Overall production impacts should be impacted.

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