

No Citrus Damage Expected from Freeze in Florida

LAKELAND, Fla. (AP) — Florida's citrus industry isn't expecting any damage to crops from a deep freeze afflicting much of the continental U.S.

Temperatures are expected to dip into the 30s in parts of Florida on Tuesday. But Florida Citrus Mutual spokesman Andrew Meadows said temperatures must be at 28 degrees or lower four hours straight for fruit to freeze badly.

Some pockets of low-lying areas could get that cold, but not any large swaths of land.

Meadows said he is optimistic the citrus crop will stand up well to the colder temps.

A "polar vortex" is expected to bring below-zero temperatures to much of the U.S. starting Sunday. In Florida, the drop won't be as steep, but some counties are opening cold weather shelters for residents who need a warm place to stay.

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