



The Outlook

January 5, 2010

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Southeastern Chill



The cold Arctic air mass centered in the North Central U.S. extending over Florida will remain in place through Wednesday. Another very cold air mass will follow moving into Florida over the weekend. Before the next wave of cold air hits the area there will be a brief moderation of temperatures as a short wave system moves through bringing a chance of rain Thursday into Friday. The cold air will arrive following this system once again bringing freezing temperatures to the Southeast. This next cold wave is expected to bring even lower temperatures to the agricultural areas in Texas, Florida and along the Gulf Coast. The risk of damaging cold to citrus, tomato, strawberry, squash and numerous other fruits and vegetables will stretch from Southern Texas down to Florida. Growers will do their best to protect crops from these temperatures with many attempting to harvest early to avoid loss. There is a potential for hard freeze conditions (below 28 degrees for an extended time period) throughout the region over the weekend into early next week. Critical temperature for citrus is 28 degrees for 3 plus hours. Extended forecasts expect the current cold weather pattern to be with us into mid January at a minimum. It is being caused by two large pressure systems that have stalled over eastern North America creating a blocking pattern. The block has and will continue to force large bodies of cold air over Canada to move southward into the U.S. Crop damage assessments and evaluations will continue will into January as many crops will take weeks to show the true extent of damage. Upcoming weather patterns will play a crucial role as to future supply and quality. There is speculation (long range forecasts) of another freeze event possibly later this month. As always we will do our best to keep you up to date with the ever changing information.