

FREEZE DAMAGE TO
PEACH CROP IN SOUTHEAST
MARCH 17-18, 1967

March 21, 1967

Below freezing temperatures in the Carolinas on March 17-18 resulted in severe damage to peaches. In general peaches in the Southeastern States were in full bloom. It will be several days before the full extent of the damage can be appraised. Losses were heaviest in North Carolina and the South Carolina Piedmont area. There was some damage to the Georgia crop, but losses are not expected to be severe.

In North Carolina, peaches were in full bloom in the Sandhills area. All open blooms appear to have been killed but it is hoped that the tight late buds might have survived. Thus only the late buds provide much hope for a crop.

In the South Carolina Piedmont area, peaches were in full bloom. Orchards were fired on Friday night March 17, when temperatures dropped well below freezing. However, losses were so heavy that smudge pots were not fired on Saturday when temperature were even colder. In the Sandhills and Ridge areas of South Carolina, losses were severe but not expected to be as heavy as in the Piedmont.

In Georgia, 29° temperatures in the Fort Valley area caused some damage to peaches. However, losses are expected to be light. In North Georgia, there was some damage with Elberta and Keystone varieties hardest hit.

In Alabama, peaches were in full bloom, but 30-32 degrees temperatures did not cause any appreciable damage. There was some damage to peach buds in the Appalachian area.

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