

**February 2026**

**WINTER STORMS  
EZRA AND GIANNA  
PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES  
OF DAMAGE TO  
FLORIDA AGRICULTURE**



**Florida Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services**

Commissioner Wilton Simpson

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# DIRECTIVE AND GUIDELINES

Winter storms **Ezra** (December 30, 2025 – January 1, 2026) and **Gianna** (January 26, 2026 – February 4, 2026) brought widespread and unexpected damage across Florida, affecting many of the state’s most productive agricultural regions during peak seasonal growth and planting periods. Beyond the immediate harm to crops, the prolonged cold temperatures caused significant stress to a wide range of specialty crops. Freeze events of this nature have not been experienced by Florida producers for decades.

The freeze struck areas vital to Florida’s production of vegetables and melons, citrus, sugarcane, fruits, horticulture and aquaculture. While producers were able to harvest quantities of commodities, much of the industry was unable to do so. There were several reasons for this including: products not ready for harvesting, windy conditions, shortage of resources such as storage facilities, on-site available labor, etc. Inadequate crop protection resources played a role in losses as well.

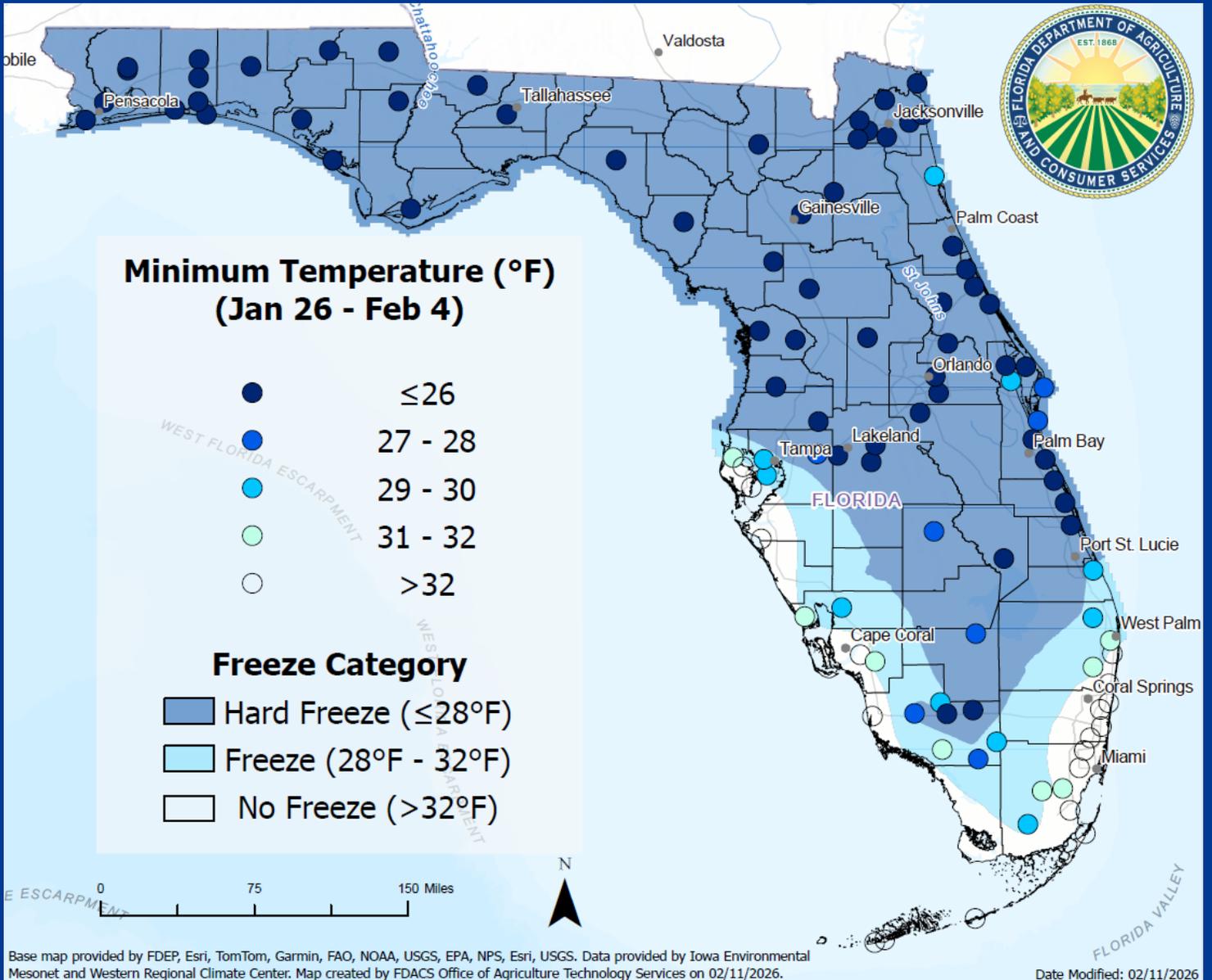
In the aftermath of this extreme weather event, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) received reports from industry leaders across the state detailing substantial losses to this year’s crops.

The following counties have been identified as experiencing freeze-related agricultural impacts: Alachua, Baker, Bay, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Calhoun, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Columbia, Collier, DeSoto, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Glades, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Holmes, Indian River, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lake, Lee, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Nassau, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Volusia, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington. To summarize, 66 of Florida’s 67 counties experienced freezing temperatures for multiple hours.

This document provides a preliminary summary of estimated losses across Florida’s diverse agricultural sectors, including vegetables and melons, citrus, sugarcane, fruits, horticulture and aquaculture. These estimates draw on data from the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, the Florida Census of Agriculture, USDA Market News, UF-IFAS Preliminary Freeze Event Assessment, early survey and early communication between FDACS, industry leaders, and individual producers who are currently engaged in large-scale recovery efforts. The figures will be updated as additional information becomes available.

The purpose of this document is to inform policymakers of the extent of the preliminary damages and losses experienced and anticipated by agricultural producers in Florida following winter storms Ezra and Gianna.

# FREEZE IMPACT MAP



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Estimated total crop losses resulting from the freeze event are approximately **\$3.17 billion**.

A total of **66 counties** experienced below freezing temperatures:

- Alachua, Baker, Bay, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Calhoun, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Columbia, Collier, DeSoto, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Glades, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Holmes, Indian River, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lake, Lee, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Nassau, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Volusia, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington.

## Sector Impacts

**Citrus:** Citrus fruit damages are estimated to be \$85.2 million. Estimated citrus tree damages is \$327.38 million, and individual tree protective infrastructure damage is estimated to be \$41.48 million. Future production loss for citrus is estimated to be \$220.56 million, making total citrus damage \$674.66 million.

**Non-Citrus Fruits:** Strawberries and blueberries sustained the most significant damage. Estimated production losses are approximately 80% of the remaining strawberry harvest, resulting in an estimated \$306.9 million in losses. Estimated production losses are approximately 90% of the blueberry crop, resulting in an estimated \$78.5 million in losses.

**Greenhouse and Nursery:** Floriculture producers have reported freeze-related damages to approximately 20% of total value of crops, resulting in losses estimated to be approximately \$240 million.

**Vegetables and Melons:** Tomatoes, watermelons, sweet corn, bell peppers, potatoes, and cabbage were all heavily affected. Depending on the crops estimated production losses range from 40% to 100%. Tomato losses are estimated to be \$164 million; watermelons \$65.4 million; sweet corn \$255 million; bell peppers \$108 million; potatoes \$79.1 million; cabbage \$21.8 million; and squash \$24.5 million.

**Sugarcane:** Producers estimate production losses of 35%, resulting in an estimated loss of approximately \$576 million for the current season. Future season damages are also estimated to be \$576 million, bringing total losses to sugarcane to \$1.15 billion.

**Aquaculture:** Preliminary reports show that the ornamental/tropical fish industry was hit hard, with upwards of 75% losses per facility, which could total upwards of \$3 million or more for larger facilities.

# Citrus:

## Approximately \$675 million

Florida is a leading national producer of citrus, with **247,205** commercial acres generating more than **\$285 million** in cash receipts as of 2023.

The Florida Citrus Industry was significantly impacted by freezing temperatures not experienced in decades causing a wide range of damage including fruit, foliage and limb, bloom and fruitlet and tree loss.

Production losses for citrus fruit as a result of lost or damaged fruit is estimated to be **\$85.21 million**.

Producers have estimated **15%** tree loss across the impacted areas as a result of the winter freeze, resulting in damages to be an estimated **\$327.38 million**. Damage to individual tree protective infrastructure was also reported to be an estimated **\$41.48 million**.

The loss of bloom, new flush to support bloom and existing fruitlets already in existence will contribute to future production losses from freeze impacts to citrus acreage as will loss of foliage, limb dieback, and tree losses. Based on USDA/NASS data from prior years weather events impacting trees in a similar manner, the industry will face a multi-year average loss in productivity of **27%** per year before returning to pre-storm production. It is estimated that **80%** of the total acres of citrus in Florida were significantly affected by the freeze. Estimated future production loss is **\$220.56 million**. Total citrus losses are estimated to be **\$674.66 million**.

<b>Citrus Freeze Losses</b>		
Citrus Production Losses	\$	85,218,736
Citrus Tree infrastructure Losses	\$	327,389,435
Citrus Individual Tree Protective Infrastructure Damages	\$	41,486,970
Citrus Future Production Losses	\$	220,565,195
<b>Total Citrus Freeze Losses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>674,660,336</b>

# Fruits (Non-Citrus) and Tree Nuts: Approximately \$385 million

Florida is a leading national producer of fruits and tree nuts, generating more than **\$519 million** in cash receipts as of 2023. Key commodities within this sector include fresh blueberries and strawberries.

**Strawberries** sustained substantial damage as a result of the winter freeze. Estimated production losses to the **16,200 acres** of strawberries is approximately **80%**. With **70.8%** of the growing season remaining, the projected value of these losses is estimated to be **\$306.9 million**.

**Blueberries** were similarly affected. The extreme cold killed floral buds, led to dropped fruit, and caused plant limbs to break under the weight of cold protection. Producers reported that the freeze will not only affect this year's harvest, but harvests for years to come. The reported production losses to the **6,400 acres** of blueberries is approximately **90%**. Given that **100%** of the growing season remains, the total estimated value of production losses is **\$78.5 million**.

# Greenhouse and Nursery:

## Approximately \$240 million

Florida's nurseries provide live plants for landscapers and agricultural producers throughout the nation. The 2023 cash receipts for floriculture and other horticultural crops totaled more than **\$1.2 billion**.

An estimated **63,582 acres** of horticultural crops for the state of Florida were affected by the winter freeze.

Floriculture producers are still assessing the damages caused due to the winter freeze, early estimates of the freeze-related damages reported by the producers are approximately **20%** of total value of crops, resulting in losses estimated to be approximately **\$240 million**.

# Vegetables and Melons:

## Approximately \$719 million

Florida is a major national producer of vegetables and melons, generating **\$1.7 billion** in cash receipts as of 2023. Key commodities include melons, snap beans, bell peppers, and eggplants, among others. In addition to the crops listed below, producers reported damages to artichokes, broccoli, carrots, celery, leafy greens, and radishes

**Tomatoes** sustained significant damage from the winter freeze, with production losses to the **27,900 acres** of tomatoes estimated to be **80%**. With **62%** of the growing season remaining, the projected value of these losses is approximately **\$164 million**.

**Sweet corn** experienced substantial freeze-related impacts, with production losses to the **45,000 acres** of sweet corn estimated to be **100%**. Given that **83.3%** of the growing season remains, the total projected value of losses is approximately **\$255 million**.

**Watermelons** were also affected, with estimated production losses to the **25,700 acres** of watermelons to be **33%**. With **100%** of the growing season remaining, the projected value of losses is estimated to be **\$65.4 million**.

**Bell peppers** sustained notable damage, with production losses to the **11,900 acres** of bell peppers estimated to be **80%**. With **67.4%** of the growing season remaining, the projected value of losses is approximately **\$108 million**.

**Potatoes** experienced production losses to the **17,700 acres** of potatoes estimated to be **75%**. With **100%** of the growing season remaining, the total projected value of losses is approximately **\$79.1 million**.

**Cabbage** also suffered measurable impacts, with production losses to the **6,900 acres** of cabbage estimated to be **40%**. Given that **81.2%** of the growing season remains, the projected value of losses is approximately **\$21.8 million**.

**Squash** also experienced measurable impacts, with production losses to the **6,900 acres** of squash estimated to be **90%**. Given that **65.3%** of the growing season remains, the projected value of losses is estimated to be **\$24.5 million**.

<b>Crop</b>	<b>% Season Left</b>	<b>% Loss</b>	<b>Value of Losses</b>
<b>Tomatoes</b>	62.0%	80%	\$ 164,273,849.10
<b>Watermelons</b>	100%	33%	\$ 65,437,343.40
<b>Sweet Corn</b>	83.3%	100%	\$ 255,363,251.11
<b>Bell Peppers</b>	67.4%	80%	\$ 108,380,389.48
<b>Potatoes</b>	100%	75%	\$ 79,065,000.00
<b>Cabbage</b>	81.2%	40%	\$ 21,800,280.81
<b>Squash</b>	65.3%	90%	\$ 24,522,275.70
<b>Totals</b>			<b>\$ 718,842,389.60</b>

# Sugarcane and Seed: Approximately \$1.15 billion

Florida is a major producer of sugarcane and sugarcane seed, totaling **\$1.6 billion** in annual value as of 2025.

While the visual damage to sugarcane sets in quickly, the true impact of a freeze event to production is not realized until the remaining viable sugarcane is harvested. Post freeze event, unharvested sugarcane will begin to deteriorate, once deterioration reaches a certain threshold, the remaining unharvested sugarcane will no longer be viable to harvest and process. Since sugarcane is a perennial grass harvested on an annual basis, damage caused by freeze events affects not only the remainder of the current unharvested crop, but also the production of future crops currently ratooning after harvest or recently planted for next year’s crop.

Sugarcane producers have reported significant damage to the **401,000 acres** of sugarcane resulting from the winter freeze, with estimated production losses of **35%** to the total annual value of **\$1.65 billion**. Estimated total loss for the current season is **\$576 million**. Future season damages are also estimated to be **\$576 million**, bringing total losses to sugarcane to **\$1.15 billion**.

Value of Sugarcane in Florida	
Average Yield per Acre in Tons of Sugarcane	47.4
Average Yield of Sugar per Ton of Sugarcane	11%
Price of Sugar per Pound of Refined Sugar	\$0.41
Value of Sugarcane per Acre	\$ 4,104.46
Total Acreage Statewide	401,000
Total Annual Value of Florida Sugarcane	\$ 1,645,888,781
<b>35% Losses for 2026 Season</b>	<b>\$ 576,061,073</b>

Total Future Estimated Impact to Sugarcane in Florida	% Impacted	Value
<b>2027 Future Anticipated Production Impact</b>	20%	\$ 329,177,756
<b>2028 Future Anticipated Production Impact</b>	10%	\$ 164,588,878
<b>2029 Future Anticipated Production Impact</b>	5%	\$ 82,294,439

# Aquaculture:

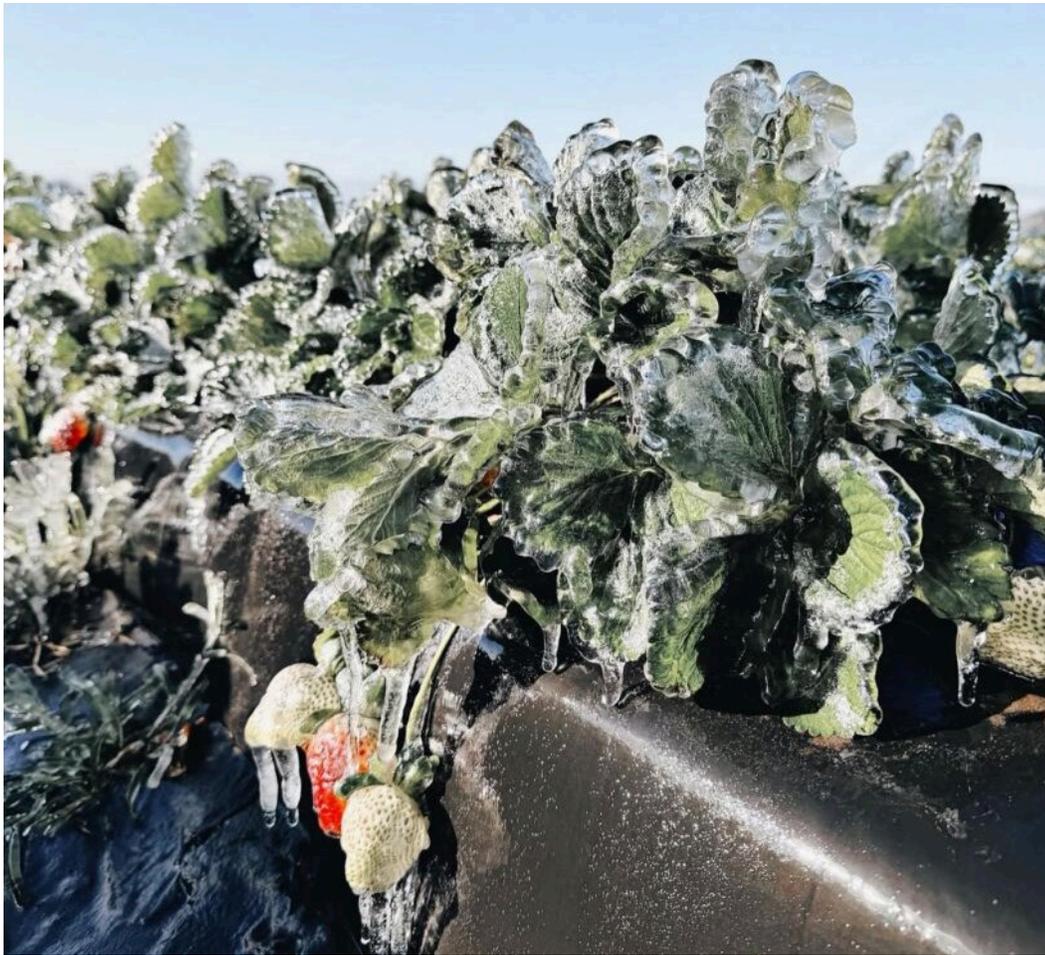
Preliminary reports show that the ornamental/tropical fish industry was hit hard, with upwards of 75% losses per facility, which could total upwards of \$3 million or more for larger facilities. The extended days of temperatures well below 50 degrees Fahrenheit is projected to cause large mortality losses to the cold-stunned fish. Shellfish nurseries and hatcheries are expected to experience high mortality from the freezing water temperatures and infrastructure damage.

## Winter storms Ezra and Gianna Preliminary estimates of damage to Florida agriculture

Crop	% Season Left	% Loss	Value of Losses
<b>Tomatoes</b>	<b>62.0%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>\$ 164,273,849.10</b>
<b>Strawberries</b>	<b>70.8%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>\$ 306,965,897.29</b>
<b>Watermelons</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>\$ 65,437,343.40</b>
<b>Sweet Corn</b>	<b>83.3%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 255,363,251.11</b>
<b>Sugarcane</b>			<b>\$ 1,152,122,146.00</b>
Sugarcane Production Losses	100%	35%	\$ 576,061,073.00
Sugarcane Future Production Losses			\$ 576,061,073.00
<b>Bell Peppers</b>	<b>67.4%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>\$ 108,380,389.48</b>
<b>Potatoes</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>\$ 79,065,000.00</b>
<b>Cabbage</b>	<b>81.2%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>\$ 21,800,280.81</b>
<b>Squash</b>	<b>65.3%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>\$ 24,522,275.70</b>
<b>Blueberries</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>\$ 78,512,400.00</b>
<b>Greenhouse and Nursery</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>\$ 240,000,000.00</b>
<b>Citrus</b>			<b>\$ 674,660,336.00</b>
Citrus Production Losses			\$ 85,218,736.00
Citrus Tree infrastructure Losses			\$ 327,389,435.00
Citrus Individual Tree Protective Infrastructure Damages			\$ 41,486,970.00
Citrus Future Production Losses			\$ 220,565,195.00
<b>Totals</b>			<b>\$ 3,171,103,168.89</b>



*Figure 1 Freeze Damage to Bell Peppers*



*Figure 2 Freeze Damage to Strawberries*



*Figure 3 Freeze Damage to Squash*



*Figure 4 Freeze Damage to Sweet Corn*



*Figure 5 Freeze Damage to Sugarcane*



*Figure 6 Freeze Damage to Blueberries*

# DATA SOURCES

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