

Greetings,

I thought everyone would benefit from seeing this weather alert from retired Extension Agent Emeritus, Gary England who has always monitored various weather data and predictions for growers.

(From Gary England) As depicted in the NWS/NFDF, the models are still indicating freezing temperatures for north and western north central Florida Sunday morning. A look at the NWS Pinpoint Forecasts reveals that on Sunday morning, lows of 32 and below are expected in locations west of the St. Johns River down to Weirsdale and down to the Brooksville area along the western Counties. Current NWS Pinpoint Forecast Guidance is suggesting 1-2 hours at 32 in the southern locations, 4-5 hours at 30-32 in the Williston area and 4-5 hours at 29-31 in Live Oak. Right now, the Hastings area is checking in with NWS Pinpoint Forecasts just above freezing.

Significant winds and large temperature-dewpoint spread should inhibit frost formation. Sunday night/Monday morning could yield some frost from the I-10 Corridor north and we will certainly have additional updates on this as Sunday/Monday draw closer.

We will continue to monitor and update this outlook as necessary.

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Thank You to the 2022 Suwannee Valley Rapid Diagnostic Watermelon Program and Its Industry Sponsors:

We have initiated a more formal way to support our watermelon growers with a rapid diagnostics system through Suwannee Valley Regional and County Extension Agents. This industry-funded program allows Extension Agents to submit and pay for watermelon grower's plant disease and other diagnostic samples. This SV Rapid Diagnostic Watermelon Program will help us to get quicker diagnostic results, helping to give early alerts to everyone, and not have to charge the growers directly. Plant disease samples are typically \$40 and leaf tissue analyses are typically \$20. **We want to thank the initial sponsors of this program: Syngenta Crop Protection, Glades Crop Care, Summit Agro-USA, and Gowan USA for sponsoring this effort. Other industry reps interested in sponsoring this effort can contact Bob Hochmuth at bobhoch@ufl.edu or 386-288-6301.**