



# Arizona Department of Agriculture

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## ***PRESS RELEASE***

### ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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## **Freeze Conditions Hurt Arizona Citrus Farmers**

(Phoenix, AZ) -- Recent freezing temperatures have destroyed most of the remaining citrus crop in Arizona. Early estimates predict 75% to 90% percent of all unpicked citrus in Yuma County has been destroyed by the freezing temperatures.

Approximately 25% of the lemon crop is still in the field and over 75% of grapefruit, tangelos and oranges remain unpicked in Arizona.

Although at risk, lettuce and other produce are not as vulnerable to the recent cold front as citrus. It will take a few days to determine the impact on produce because lettuce and other produce are able to heal if temperatures stabilize.

The Arizona Department of Agriculture is committed to making sure that citrus in Arizona is of the highest quality and is working to ensure that damaged citrus is not sold as fresh. In order to maintain consumer confidence, the Arizona Department of Agriculture has put the ports coming into Arizona on alert to closely monitor fruit coming from production areas impacted by the freeze.

There are 26,500 acres of citrus harvested annually, which is valued at over 38.5 million dollars.

For more information on Arizona agricultural statistics please visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

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