


The Mexican government has warned up to 60,000 hectares of citrus and sugarcane crops could be destroyed by frosts this month in the state of Tamaulipas. 

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development and Fishing (SAGARPA) Tamaulipas delegate Roberto Salinas Salinas, told newspaper *La Gaceta* the concern has arisen as January and February are the state's coldest months. Temperatures dropped to -4°C (24.8°F) last year.

He highlighted the central part of the state hosted 30,000 hectares of citrus crops, which were at risk if temperatures dropped below -4°C (24.8°F), the story reported. Salinas added that while oranges could resist some low temperatures, they could be damaged by freezing.

He said citrus growers were planning for the cold weather with systems such as heat barriers installed to prevent orchard damages.

SAGARPA reports that autumn-winter 2011-2012 cycle crops are not at risk as growers are just preparing the ground for the plantation of nearly 800,000 hectares this season.

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