

Satellite

DECEMBER FLORIDA FREEZE OF 1983

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One of America's coldest Decembers in 100 years killed 500 persons and ruined more than one half of a billion dollars in crops. Florida suffered most of the crop losses.

Nowhere are the economic stakes bigger than in the Sunshine State, where 75% of U.S. citrus fruit is grown. While escaping earlier December blasts of cold air, the "Siberian Express" overran Florida on Christmas night with the coldest temperatures reported on early Monday morning the 26th. Thirty percent of the citrus and vegetable crop was lost during this sudden freeze. The 22,000 mile high GOES thermal photo of cloud free Florida shows land and water temperature ranges (See Figure 1).

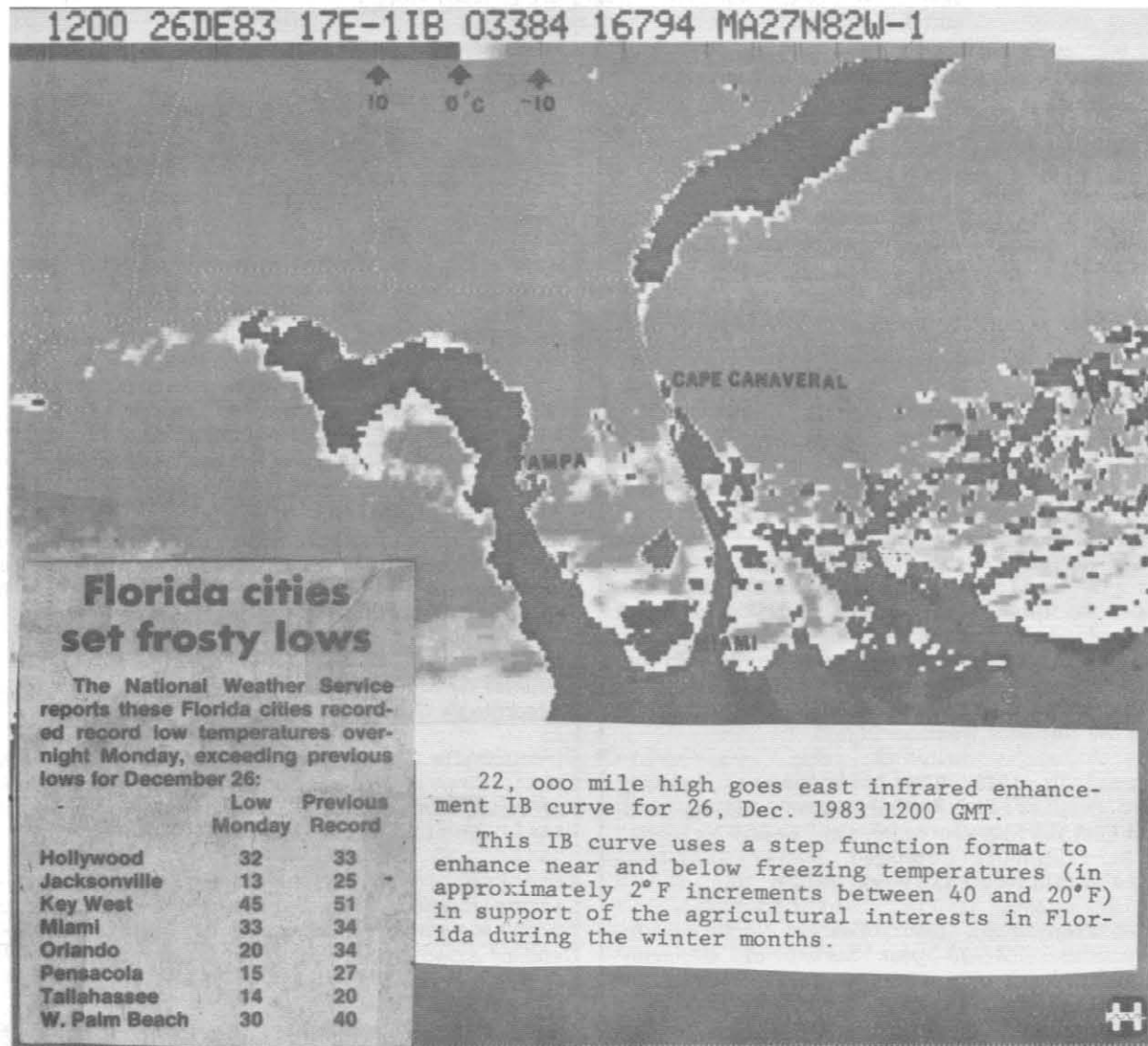


Figure 1. GOES East 1R enhancement IB curve for 12Z, December 26, 1983.