

Released upon receipt  
but intended for use  
December 10, 1931

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed December 3, 1931

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

THE SOUTHERN FROST LIMIT

No part of the mainland of the United States is absolutely exempt from frost, the only frost-free portions of the country, so far as records show up to the present time, being some of the Florida Keys, including Key West. The following statement on this subject was published in 1917 by A. J. Mitchell, of the Weather Bureau:

"Hitherto the limiting southern position of the frost line in Florida has been a geographical enigma. Since January, 1886, which brought some of the severest abnormally cold weather since that of February, 1835, the southern limit of frost in Florida has been a feature of every cold wave, each increase in severity pushing the known frost line farther equatorward.

"During 1916 the Weather Bureau authorized the establishment of a cooperative meteorological station at Long Key, which is about equally distant from Homestead on the north and Key West on the south. On February 4, 1917, a temperature of 37 was recorded at Long Key. This temperature indicated frost deposit provided other factors were favorable, which was the case. In all probability Long Key is the southern limit of frost formation on the islands adjacent to or on the littoral of the United States."

The most southerly point in the country at which a temperature below the freezing-point (32) has been registered is Flamingo, Monroe County, on the southernmost shore of the Florida mainland, where the temperature fell to 30 on January 26, 1905.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE  
21st and Constitution Ave.  
Washington, D. C.