

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
December 9, 1935

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed December 2, 1935

FRUIT THERMOMETERS

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman
Authority on Meteorology

The up-to-date citrus grower does not depend upon the reading of an ordinary thermometer in the open air to tell him when it is time to light his orchard heaters, but sticks an instrument known as a "fruit thermometer" into an orange hanging on the tree and is thus able to keep watch of the temperature inside the fruit. The following instructions for using this indicator are given by Floyd D. Young, who has for many years directed the "fruit-frost" service of the U. S. Weather Bureau in California:

"Allow the thermometer to cool to the outside temperature, then shake it down in the same manner as setting a fever thermometer. Insert the bulb of the thermometer on the middle of the outer face of an orange on the outside of the tree, about the level of the eyes just deeply enough so that the bulb is in the pulp of the fruit. Wipe off all juice which may flow out of the wound, and do not touch either thermometer or orange afterward. Make readings with a strong electric flashlight, using reading glass if necessary. Light heaters when the fruit thermometer falls to the freezing point of the fruit, and the air temperature has fallen below that point. Maintain a temperature in the orchard at or slightly above the freezing point of the fruit during the remainder of the night."

The freezing points of the different citrus fruits depend upon the variety and also vary with the degree of maturity. Mr. Young and others have published figures on this subject.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

- - - - -

SCIENCE SERVICE
2101 Constitution Ave.,
Washington, D. C.