

Italy: Update on damage caused by cold front

Over three million tomato plants are dead due to the cold front that hit the Parma area. In addition, 450 hectares of vineyards in the Reggio Emilia area have been heavily damaged. These are the first figures to have emerged from the assessment carried out by Coldiretti Emilia-Romagna of the damage caused by the sudden drop in temperatures of the past few days.

Dozens of hectares of vineyards have been damaged in Bobbio and asparagus crops have been damaged in Podenzano. Tomato plants that were being transplanted were hit in the southern Piacenza area as well as in the province of Parma (especially towards the Po river), Baganzola and Trecasali.

In the Modena province, the cold temperatures damaged the vineyards, especially the newly-blossomed branches and young leaves. Pear fruitlets dropped while, in Vignola, the minimum temperature dropped to 3-4°C below zero damaging plum and cherry orchards.

Temperatures dropped to 2°C below zero in Crevalcore and San Giovanni in Persiceto (Bologna), damaging those orchards that had already been hit by the hailstorm on Easter Monday.

The same happened in Cento and Bondeno (Ferrara), damaging orchards as well as corn, tomato and open-field crops.

Trento: the areas dedicated to soft fruit cultivation

Soft fruit technical experts from Fondazione March inspected the Valsugana area. Strawberries have definitely been damaged, but a few more days are needed to make an estimate. At the moment, it doesn't seem that other soft fruit has been damaged, except for cherries.

Compromised fruit harvests in the Oltrepò area

The cold front hit the Val di Nizza and Valle Staffora areas particularly hard. Plants were growing well thanks to the above-average temperatures of the past few days, but the recent cold temperatures 'burned' the buds. "Nothing was spared - peaches, pears, apples and strawberries are all gone. Even cherries and apricots have been damaged," explained a grower from Varzi. In just a few hours, temperatures dropped to -5°C. "Open-field vegetables were also affected. I will have to replant everything, from potatoes to asparagus, courgettes and salad."

Valdichiana orchards damaged - peaches and apples at risk

Great alarm for orchards in Valdichiana. Temperatures dropped to -0.2°C and the same is to be expected over the next few nights. Growers are worried for peaches and apples, which had already developed fruitlets due to the previous warm temperatures.

It's still too early to make an assessment, but the sudden drop in temperatures and snowfall could put both fruit and grape harvests at risk.

Campania: night-time frost might compromise the harvest

The cold weather is back in Naples and Campania. After the summery temperatures of the past week, it seems winter has now returned. It is now ten degrees colder than in the past few days, well below the seasonal average.

Frost hit the area between Naples and Caserta particularly hard. A 40% loss is expected for vegetables, potatoes and tomatoes and apples from Caserta have also been seriously damaged. In the Aversa area, growers are already preparing the land to start producing again.

Coldiretti's map of the damage

Region	Damage
Valle d'Aosta	Highest vineyards in Italy in the Blanc de Morgex and de La Salle areas.
Piedmont	Orchards, vineyards, vegetables and greenhouse produce damaged due to night-time frost in the Alessandria, Asti, Cuneo, Vercelli and Novara provinces. Acacia blossoming affected and problems for wines such as Gattinara and Ghemme.
Lombardy	Vineyards, fruit and vegetables damaged and greenhouse roofs ripped off by the wind. In Valtellina, Doc and Igt vineyards damaged by the night-time frost. Vineyards in Bergamo and Brescia (Grumello, Franconia and Marzemino) also damaged. Worry for corn and forage crops in Milan and Lodi. Courgette, bean, green bean and white potato losses in Brianza. 80% of cherry and apricot orchards and vineyards in Pavia. In Mantova, the frost worsened the damage made by hail on pears, tomatoes and grapes (Lambrusco).
Veneto	On the Colli Berici (Vicenza), 70-80% losses in Merlot and Cabernet vineyards. Pinot grigio and bianco, Prosecco and Chardonnay problems in Lonigo. Drops in production expected for Glera, Moscato giallo and Raboso in Padua. Lettuce and green beans destroyed in the area south of Padua.
Emilia-Romagna	Over three million tomato plants died due to the frost in Parma as well as 450 hectares of vineyards heavily damaged. Problems for corn crops as well as plum and cherry orchards in Vignola and the north Ferrara area.
Tuscany	Damage on fully-blossomed fruit trees in Valdichiana, Chianti and Siena as well as on lettuce, green beans and tomatoes in Pisa and Livorno as far as Maremma.
Campania	Heavy frost in Aversa and in the Caserta foothills where 40% of vegetable, potato and tomato crops have been damaged. Problems for vineyards in Benevento and apple orchards in Annurca. Worry also for olive groves should cold temperatures persist.
Sardinia	Thousands of vineyard hectares 'burned' by frost in Sassari, especially in the Berchidda area.

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