

Friends,

Please try to capture this for grower training before it disappears!!

Go to www.weather.uga.edu. Click on Clarks Hill station. Click on graph. Click on graph current conditions.

Observe the shelter level air temperature/dew point graph about 2400. Print it & save.

Scroll down to wind speed, and print it.

Scroll down to wind direction, and print it!!!

BOTTOM LINE - We MUST know in "REAL TIME, where things are going and from what direction", or we are just playing RUSSIAN ROULETTE. Using available, NON-REAL TIME FORECASTS are akin to going into a remote wilderness during a blinding snowstorm w/o a compass or GPS, NOT wise. Sure wish we had that system in SC & other states!!!

The forecast was from the NE or NW, BUT it went SW & THE WORLD CHANGED IN REAL TIME!!! Because ground temperature was 5F below shelter, frost pocket fields had gone out, overhead protection was on-line, heavy frost was around all fields, and then it started to disappear gradually. All was saved again.

3/13 was a "DIFFERENT STORY". Weather shelter @ Augusta was officially 26F, ground was 23F, just beyond experienced row cover limits for 1.5 oz. There was very heavy frost & icing with overhead. Very surprising since on 3/12 it rained all day thru 1700 & we expected that would hold the temperature up.

The only row cover we had deployed was soaked from the rain thru 1700 and did NOT dry. At 23F, it FROZE SOLID to the squash, despite being doubled, and they are TOAST!! We chose NOT to attempt to save them with overhead protection, as previous experience taught us that overhead DROWNS squash. That was a gamble with no way to win with tools available.

Hope this is helpful.

Sincerely,
Clyde