

MEMO

To: Agents in Tobacco Growing Counties

From: Paul Denton, <mailto:pdenton@utk.edu>
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Date: **October 13, 2009**

Re: [Minimizing Frost Damage on Tobacco](#)

As noted by Bob Pearce in the forwarded email below, temperatures are going to drop this weekend. Current forecasts for Sunday morning are predicting lows in the mid to upper 30's for the northeastern Ridge and Valley and the northern Highland Rim in Tennessee. At these temperatures frost is likely in low lying areas. We still have some tobacco in the field, and the weather between now and Sunday doesn't look very favorable for cutting and housing. The email below contains a link to a fact sheet by Gary Palmer with good tips about handling frost damaged tobacco. The forecasts indicate cold temperatures just above freezing for a couple of nights, followed by warmer, sunny days. These are the kind of conditions the factsheet addresses, when frosted tobacco quality can be improved by exposure to sunlight, so you find the factsheet useful.

From: Pearce, Robert C [<mailto:rpearce@email.uky.edu>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2009 12:00 PM
Subject: Minimizing frost damage on tobacco

Morning lows approaching the freezing mark are being predicted by this weekend for some areas. In most years we would have most if not all the tobacco harvested by now and frost damage in the field would not be much of a worry. However there does seem to be a fair amount of tobacco still out and prospects for getting much of it cut in the next three days are not good due forecasted rains. The conventional recommendation for field tobacco impacted by an "early" frost is to leave it standing for 3 days after the frost event to bleach the color. Regardless of frost damage late harvested burley tobacco is going to cure slowly and may have some green or greenish cast colors due to the relatively low temperatures typical of late October to December. Below is a link to a fact sheet authored by Gary Palmer on the management of frost impacted burley tobacco. Hopefully this will help as you talk with tobacco growers over the next few days.

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/TobaccoProd/FactSheets/HTML/Tob-04-06.htm>

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