



**Estimated Economic Impact from a Snow Event On December 11, 2008
To The Louisiana Nursery Industry**

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On December 11, 2008, Louisiana experienced a very untypical snow event. Snowfall accumulations in excess of 6 inches were recorded in many areas throughout the southern part of the state. While implications from accumulated snowfall are not typically a consideration for Louisiana, this particular event did create significant damage to the nursery industry in the state. While damage to plant material was experienced, a greater impact was to the infrastructure of these nursery operations. Infrastructure damage was experienced due to weight associated with the large snowfall accumulations. Greenhouses and other growing structures were simply not equipped to sustain the type of snowfall accumulations experienced.

Shortly after the snowfall event, Dr. Allen Owings, horticultural specialist, with the LSU AgCenter began to survey producers and parish agents to get an assessment of the damage experienced. This information was combined with published data from the LSU AgCenter on the value of the nursery industry in the state to develop the potential economic impact.

Total economic impact to the nursery industry was estimated at \$4.6 million. Of this total impact, \$1.1 million (24%) was associated with losses to plant material and other estimated revenue losses. The vast majority (76%) of the damage was in the form of infrastructure damage.

The total economic impact represents nearly 5 percent of the typical farm gate value of nursery operations in the impacted parishes. Percentages of losses ranged from a low of 1.76 percent to a high of 29.04 percent.

Estimated Economic Damages To Louisiana Nursery Industry From Snowfall on December 11, 2008

Parish	5 Year Average Farm Gate Value ^A	Estimated Production Losses	Estimated Infrastructure Losses	Total Estimated Losses	Production Losses As A Percent Of Farm Gate Value	Total Losses As A Percent Of Farm Gate Value
Avoyelles	\$1,377,500	\$400,000	\$0	\$400,000	29.04%	29.04%
E. Baton Rouge	\$2,084,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	0.00%	2.40%
Evangeline	\$790,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$75,000	3.16%	9.49%
Iberville	\$1,885,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	2.65%	2.65%
Rapides	\$53,672,000	\$180,000	\$1,800,000	\$1,980,000	0.34%	3.69%
St. Landry	\$2,365,000	\$300,000	\$40,000	\$340,000	12.68%	14.38%
St. Tammany	\$13,527,200	\$50,000	\$275,000	\$325,000	0.37%	2.40%
Tangipahoa	\$5,832,800	\$50,000	\$700,000	\$750,000	0.86%	12.86%
Washington	\$8,670,000	\$50,000	\$500,000	\$550,000	0.58%	6.34%
Others ^B	\$6,546,717	\$15,000	\$100,000	\$115,000	0.23%	1.76%
Totals	\$96,750,217	\$1,120,000	\$3,515,000	\$4,635,000	1.16%	4.79%

^A Source: LSU AgCenter, Louisiana Summary: Agriculture and Natural Resources, Various Issues. Farm gate is an estimate for revenue generated from crop sales.

^B Other parishes in significant "snow" area included Vernon, Beauregard, Allen, Acadia, Lafayette, St Martin, Ascension, West Baton Rouge, Point Coupee, West Feliciana, East Feliciana, St Helena and Livingston. Damage in these parishes was minor and these parishes have fewer wholesale nursery producers than the other parishes listed. Total value lost in these parishes was estimated as \$100,000 in structures and \$15,000 in plants.