



## Members:

The impactful freeze on February 1 and February 2 this winter brought low temperatures of 21 degrees to many locations. Effectively the whole industry's plants quickly defoliated. Since then it has become clear that most of the culms are dead down to ground level. This has caused many to wonder what to expect in this season's coming harvest and in the recovery of the plants/farms.

## [2026 Farm Photo](#)

This is the worst freeze we have experienced for the industry so our experience is limited to the previous bad freeze event in January 2022. Here is a link to a document I developed during the post-freeze recovery to aid us in understanding the impact. [Freeze Recovery](#) That document shows that the plants begin growing foliage from the ground level (the rizomes underground are still undamaged as the temperatures at that level don't reach freezing temps). The foliage eventually becomes as big as the previous plant. Then in June the new shoots come up and create culms. The plant has then regenerated itself.

Above is a link to photos from a couple of farms last week in Zolfo Springs. In general the new foliage is 4'-8' tall at most of the farms. The recovery is following the pattern of that in 2022. We expect new shoots and culms development in the summer. I examined the harvest in 2022 and found it was approximately equal (by farm) and so we expect a normal harvest for this season. I am sure we will learn more as this completely unfolds.

Let me know if you have any questions.