

Frost hits Fruit Crop

FARMERS STAND 24 HOUR GUARD

Once again the orchards of England suffer. As the billowing blossom promises record crops of fruit, Jack Frost visits the Eastern counties, trailing the severest damage for years. The farmers oldest enemy brings out new counter-measures. At this Hunton, Kent orchard thermometer levels are checked half-hourly by a dusk patrol. When temperatures drop to 30 degrees, anti-frost squads go into action.

Lanes of oil burners are ignited throughout the two hundred acres of apple trees, where one night's heavy frost could destroy 30,000 bushels of growing fruit. Each burner can keep going for 8 hours, to outlast the longest spring frost.

Now the weather can do its worst. As darkness gathers, the trees are safe against anything up to 8 degrees of frost. The farmer can sleep in peace - and dream of rich harvests.

One night frosts in the Weald of Kent have already wiped out whole crops of soft fruits. The growers prompt action is winning for Britain the Battle of the Blossoms.