

Cold temperatures Monday night to extend into Tuesday

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ANDERSON — Forecasters expect the brunt of a cold snap to hit Tuesday morning, to be followed by clouds and a chance of rain.

The sun should return by the weekend. Until then there is at least a 20 percent chance of rain through Friday. Highs will reach the 70s and 80s and lows will drop to the 40s and 50s, according to the National Weather Service.

But until then a frost was predicted Monday night to bring temperatures down to the mid to low 30s and will extend to Tuesday morning.

Tuesday's high is 68 degrees.

Anderson has received 1.64 inches of rain so far this April, more than half an inch short of normal, said Jeffrey Taylor, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service. Anderson received .11 inches of rain on Sunday, Taylor said.

Spring temperatures return Wednesday following the frigid spell. Wednesday's high is 71 and the low is 56.

Up to 20 mph winds whipped around the shores of Lake Keowee at the Oconee Nuclear Station on Monday and the wind was forecast to reach up 25 mph by night. Temperatures in Anderson were forecast to drop to 36 degrees Monday night and were forecast to drop to 38 degrees in Seneca.

Despite the possibility of a light frost, Upstate fruit crops will be safe as long as the thermometer doesn't drop to 32, said Desmond Layne, a peach specialist at Clemson University.

"When the temperatures get down to, say, 28 degrees or lower, then we have a concern normally for most of our fruit crops," he said. "Even if the temperature is right at freezing we don't typically have damage."

South Carolina's first peaches of the season are being harvested this week in Columbia, and shoppers will find them in Upstate fruit stands and farmers markets in about two weeks, Layne said.

"We're excited for a good season."