

NOUS41 KALY 311502

PNSALY

CTZ001-013-MAZ001-025-NYZ032-033-038>043-047>054-058>061-063>066
-082>084-

VTZ013>015-010302-

Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Albany NY
800 AM EDT Thu Aug 19 2021

...NWS Albany will conduct an experiment this fall to improve services related to the Frost/Freeze Program...

The National Weather Service's (NWS) Frost/Freeze Program consists of issuing Frost Advisories, Freeze Warnings or Hard Freeze Warnings when cold temperatures threaten tender vegetation and crops during the climatological growing season. The growing season is defined by the period of time between the median date of the last Spring Freeze and the median date of the first Fall Freeze.

Currently, the ending of the issuance of Frost/Freeze headlines for a season in a weather forecast zone are based on the occurrence of a freeze, or two weeks after the median first Fall Freeze date when no freeze occurs. This approach was confusing to many users as meteorological conditions often led to a patchwork approach of ending the growing season across multiple weather forecast zones and NWS offices.

The Northern New England NWS forecast offices (Burlington VT/Gray ME/Caribou ME) and the NWS Albany NY office will conduct an experimental program service during the fall of 2021. The purpose of this experimental program is to streamline the Frost/Freeze program for simplified customer usability.

The end of the seasonal Frost/Freeze program will be determined by the climatological median first Fall Freeze date. This means that these NWS offices will use a fixed date for the climatologically defined areas, based on 30-Year temperature averages, to end the growing season.

During the defined growing season, NWS Albany will issue frost/freeze headlines as needed. Once the end date of the climatologically defined growing season is reached, frost/freeze headlines will no longer be issued for that climatological area as frost and freeze are expected.

The following are the climatologically defined areas and their respective ending dates of the growing season in eastern New York and western New England:

September 21: The southern Adirondacks of NY.

October 1: Mohawk Valley, Eastern Catskills and Taconics in New York. Southern Vermont, Berkshires and Northern Litchfield County in western New England.

October 11: Hudson Valley in New York and southern Litchfield County in northwest Connecticut.

Again, our goal is to streamline the frost/freeze process, by using defined closing dates, which should make it easier and aid in planning decisions for our users.

A detailed handout with Median Last Spring and First Fall Freeze climatology can be found at:

https://www.weather.gov/media/aly/Climate/Frost-Freeze/ALB_Frost_Freeze_Program.pdf

If you have any questions or comments on this experiment, please reach out to Steve DiRienzo, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at stephen.dirienzo@noaa.gov or call 518-435-9580.

\$\$

NWS Albany