The NWS Frost/Freeze program is designed to alert gardeners and growers that actions may be needed to protect tender vegetation from potentially harmful cold temperatures.

The dates that the NWS uses to determine whether a Frost Advisory or Freeze Warning is issued are based on the average (median) date of the last Spring Freeze and the average date of the first Fall Freeze. Actions in the spring can help protect young vegetation that is just in its early stages with actions in the fall possibly helping to prolong the season.

In 2022, NWS Boston will conduct an experiment to cancel the issuance of Frost/Freeze headlines by date. This year the dates will correspond to the 75th-90th percentile for a Fall Freeze, which is 10 days beyond the median date.

Some terminology and guidance that may help you protect your vegetation:

**Frost** can occur when the temperatures fall to the mid 30s, especially in rural areas. It is a localized phenomena and frost occurrence can vary greatly across a small area.

**Frost** becomes more widespread when the temperature falls below 32°F with a freeze possible.

A hard freeze is possible when temperatures are ≤ 28°F.

Some protective measures may include:
- Bring plants inside or under some sort of cover.
- Covering your plants with a light weight fabric.
- Water the soil BEFORE as wet soils retain heat better.
- Heaters, smudge pots or wind machines – to mix the air so the average temperature near the ground is raised.