



# NWS Boston

Serving much of Southern New England

## National Weather Service Boston's Frost/Freeze Program

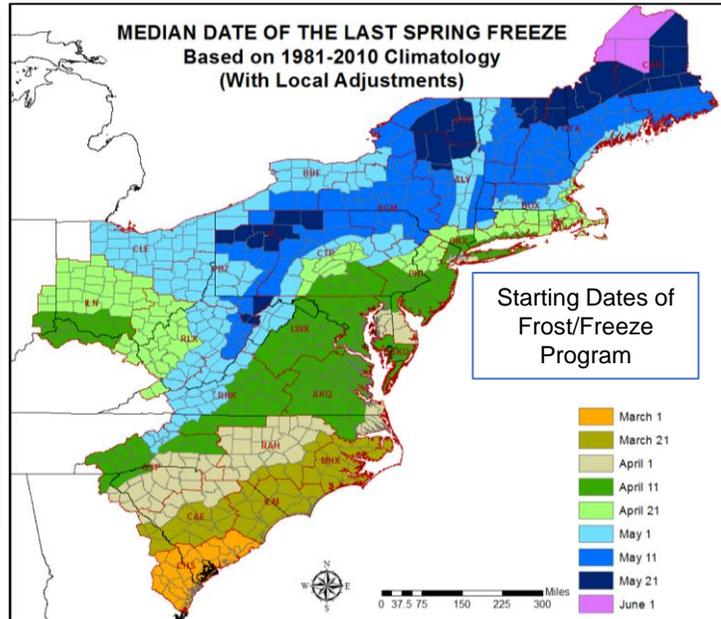
The NWS Frost/Freeze program is designed to alert gardeners and growers that actions may be needed to protect tender vegetation from potentially harmful cold temperatures.

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 75<sup>th</sup>-90<sup>th</sup> percentile for a Fall Freeze, which is 10 days beyond the median date.



<u>Location</u>	<u>Frost/Freeze Program BEGINS</u>	<u>Frost/Freeze Program ENDS</u>
Northwest and North Central MA	May 11	October 1 October 11
Areas of MA south of the Mass Pike and into Merrimack Valley	May 1	October 14 October 21
North Central and Northeast CT, RI, Eastern and Southeastern MA	April 21	October 21-Nov. 4 Nov. 1-Nov. 11
Nantucket	April 21	November 14 November 21



Outside of these dates, the NWS will **not** issue any Frost or Freeze headlines and we strongly urge you to follow local forecasts of temperatures and take protective actions if needed.

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  $\leq 28^\circ\text{F}$ .

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.

