The NWS Frost/Freeze program is designed to alert gardeners and growers that actions may need 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.

Again in 2023, NWS Boston will conduct an experiment in which the cessation of issuing Frost/Freeze alerts in the fall ends based upon a set date. These roughly correspond to 10 days beyond the median date of the first freeze (32°F or lower temperature) in the fall.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Frost/Freeze Program BEGINS</th>
<th>Frost/Freeze Program ENDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northwest and North Central MA</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>October 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Areas of MA south of the Mass Pike and into Merrimack Valley</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>October 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Central and Northeast CT, RI, Eastern and Southeastern MA, Cape and Islands</td>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>November 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 air temperatures fall to the mid 30s, especially in rural areas with clear skies and light winds. 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.