



NWS Burlington

Serving Vermont and Northern New York

National Weather Service Burlington's Frost/Freeze Program

The NWS Frost/Freeze program is to alert backyard gardening enthusiasts and small farmers to the possibility of a frost or killing freeze during the "Growing Season".

The "**Growing Season**" is defined as the period between the average (median) date of the last Spring Freeze and the average date of the first Fall Freeze.

When a Frost or Freeze is expected during the "Growing Season", NWS Burlington will issue a **Frost Advisory** or **Freeze Warning** respectively. This alerts gardeners and growers that action may need to be taken to protect tender vegetation from potentially harmful cold temperatures. Actions in the spring can help protect young vegetation that is just in its early stages with actions in the fall may help prolong the season by days or more.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Frost/Freeze Program BEGINS</u>	<u>Frost/Freeze Program ENDS</u>
NE VT and Adirondacks	May 21st	Sept 21st
St. Lawrence River Valley and Rest of VT except Champlain Valley	May 11th	October 1st
Champlain Valley	May 1 st	October 11 th

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

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

Frost can occur when the temperatures fall in the mid-upper 30s, especially in rural areas. It is a localized phenomena and the 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 $\leq 28^{\circ}\text{F}$.

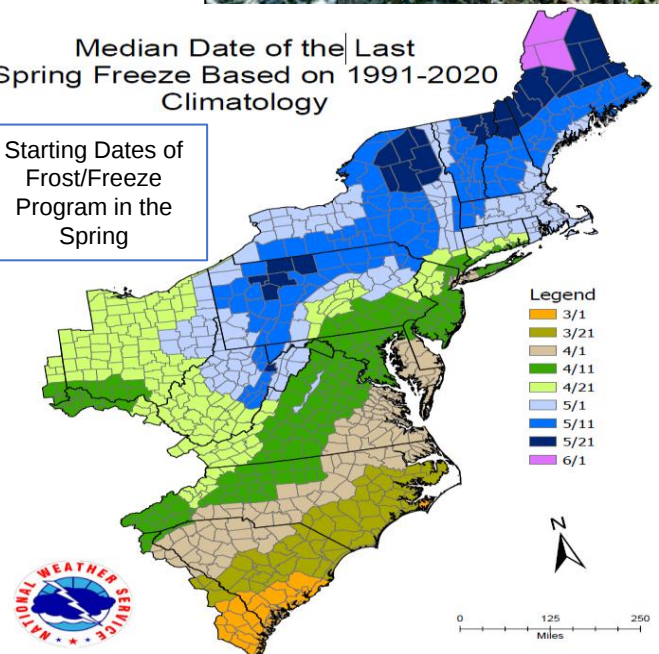
Some protective measures may include;

- 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 or smudge pots.



Median Date of the Last Spring Freeze Based on 1991-2020 Climatology

Starting Dates of Frost/Freeze Program in the Spring



Median Date of the First Fall Freeze Based on 1991-2020 Climatology

Ending Dates of the Frost/Freeze Program

