National Weather Service New York, NY’s Frost/Freeze Program

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

The “Growing Season” is defined as the period between the median date of the last Spring Freeze and the median date of the first Fall Freeze. When a Frost or Freeze is expected during the “Growing Season”, the NWS will issue a Frost Advisory or Freeze Warning respectively. 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 2023, NWS New York, NY will continue an experiment to issue fall season Frost/Freeze headlines as needed through 10 days beyond the median date of the first freeze. This corresponds to the 75th-90th percentile of the first freeze date.

Outside of the growing season, the NWS will not issue any Frost or Freeze headlines, and strongly urges 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 ≤ 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.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Frost/Freeze Program BEGINS</th>
<th>Frost/Freeze Program ENDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interior Southern Connecticut Lower Hudson Valley Interior NE New Jersey</td>
<td>April 11th - 21st</td>
<td>October 24th October 31st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffolk, Northern Nassau, and Southern Westchester Counties, Coastal Connecticut, and Eastern Bergen/Essex/Union Counties</td>
<td>April 1st - 11th</td>
<td>November 1st November 11th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York City Southern Nassau County Hudson County</td>
<td>April 1st</td>
<td>November 11th November 21st</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**MEDIAN DATE OF THE LAST SPRING FREEZE**

Based on 1981-2010 Climatology (With Local Adjustments)

**MEDIAN DATE OF THE FIRST FALL FREEZE**

Based on 1981-2010 Climatology (With Local Adjustments)