



# 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", the NWS 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 possibly helping prolong the season by days or more.

In 2024, NWS Burlington will conduct an experiment that extends the issuance of Frost/Freeze headlines to the date of the 75-90<sup>th</sup> percentile for a Fall Freeze, which is 10 days later.



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

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.

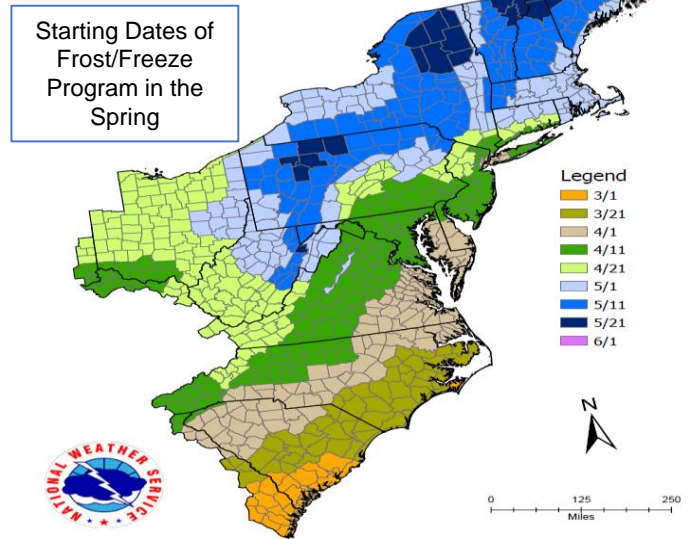
**Frost** becomes more widespread when the temperature falls below 32°F with a **freeze** possible.

A **hard freeze** is possible when temperatures are ≤ 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.

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



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

