NWS Binghamton

Serving northeast Pennsylvania and central New York

Frost/Freeze Program

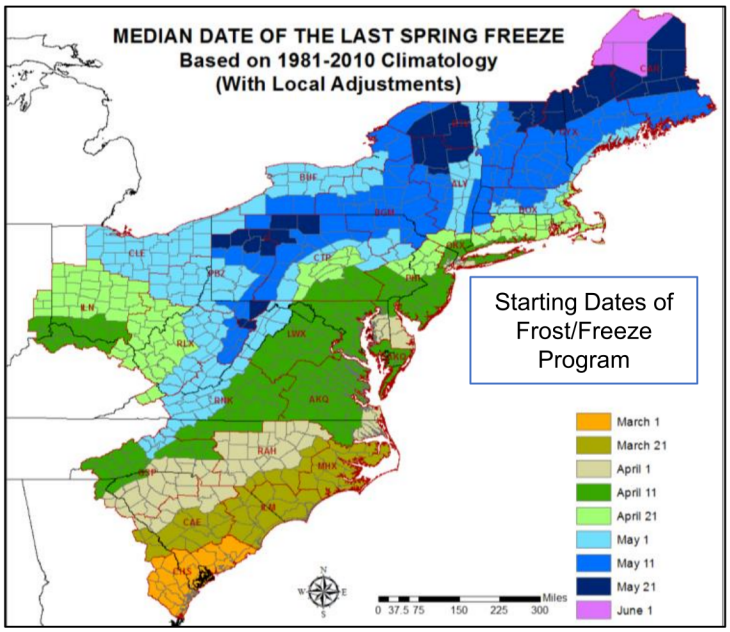
The NWS Frost/Freeze program is to alert backyard gardening enthusiasts and small farmers to the possibility of a frost or killing freeze during the "Growing Season".

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 2023, NWS Binghamton will conduct an experiment that extends the issuance of Frost/Freeze headlines to 10 days beyond the median date, equivalent to the 75-90th percentile.

Location	Frost/Freeze Program BEGINS	Frost/Freeze Program ENDS
Finger Lakes of NY Wyoming Valley PA	May 1st	October 21st
Rest of central NY And northeast Rest of PA	May 11th	October 11th



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.