



NWS Boston

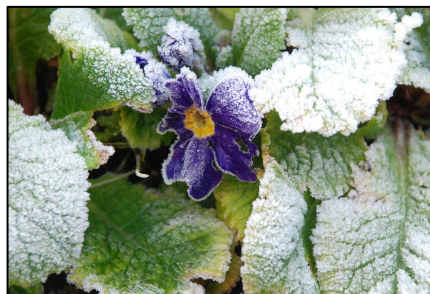
Serving much of Southern New England

National Weather Service Boston's Frost/Freeze Program

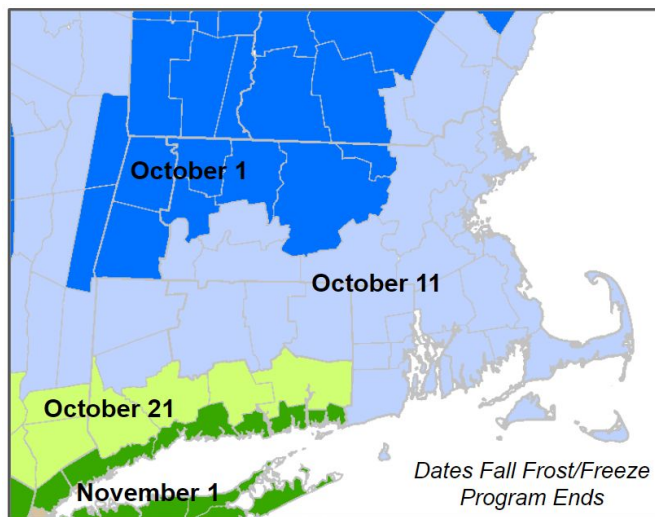
The NWS Frost/Freeze program is designed to alert gardeners and growers that actions may be needed to protect tender vegetation from potentially harmful cold temperatures.

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.

For 2024, NWS Boston will continue an experiment in which the cessation of issuing Frost/Freeze alerts in the fall is based upon a set date. These dates are roughly aligned with median first freeze (32F or lower temperature).



<u>Location</u>	<u>Frost/Freeze Program BEGINS</u>	<u>Frost/Freeze Program ENDS</u>
Eastern Massachusetts, Rhode Island & northern CT, Cape and Islands	May 1st	October 11th
Most of central MA	May 1st	October 1st
Berkshires	May 11 th	October 1st



Outside of these dates, 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 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 to 32°F or below with a **freeze** possible.

A **hard freeze** is possible when temperatures are less than 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 fans as they can help mix the air and keep the temperature near the ground warmer.

