



## **How to find your freeze dates:**

Figuring out when to plant your seedlings is a bit of a black art. But it's all based on the averages of the climate history in your particular area. So one of the first steps to get the freeze dates for your area is to find the data. If you're looking for a simple answer so you can plant all your veggies on the same day, you can find that out too.

You'll still need to know the general freeze dates in your area. So let's check out some ways to get there.

On the web:

ONE Step Version: Go to this page (linked below this video)

[http://hurricane.ncdc.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/climatenormals/climatenormals.pl?directive=prod\\_select2&prodtype=CLIM2001&subnum=](http://hurricane.ncdc.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/climatenormals/climatenormals.pl?directive=prod_select2&prodtype=CLIM2001&subnum=)

This is an interactive state-by-state list and you just choose your state in the scrolling "Select a State" box.

This will bring up a list of freeze dates broken down by town in your state. Find your town and look at the freeze dates. If your particular town isn't listed, look for the town that is nearest to you and shares your general climate and altitude.

### **Now, we get into How to read the Freeze Date chart:**

Reading this chart is a bit non-intuitive, so keep these tips in mind, and remember that you only need to do this once, then write down your first and last freeze dates.

-Under Threshold, use the 32F data.

-Under the Spring Date, and Fall Date columns, use the '50% probability level' data.

You will then have one date in the spring that is your 'Last Freeze'

And a date in the Fall that is your 'First Freeze'

The days between these two dates equal the length of your growing season between freezes.

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**Site number 2:** USDA Zone Map, to find your “Climate Zone”

USDA Zone Map: Find your Climate Zone here:  
<http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/#>

**Site number 3:** Find Your Extension Office

USDA Extension Offices: Find your local extension office here:  
<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension>

This will have more custom growing information for your particular location. They can help you with all kinds of plant choices.

The dates you are looking for are just guidelines. There are lots of other variables across the varied landscape we all grow in. But it’s good to know your general frost free growing season dates for your area and the links above should provide you with those dates.

Now write down your dates for the following categories, and keep in your garden file for later referral.

**Last Frost in Spring:**

**First Frost in Autumn:**

**Growing Season Length:**

**Climate Zone:**