Typical Last Average Spring Frost Dates in Maryland

Averages are exactly that - Averages ! This means that the dates can vary by a week or two either way. These dates have been researched and should give you a good idea of last average frost dates. Our Garden Guide, using the date you send to us, will help determine dates for both cool and warm season plantings. Happy Gardening! - Jim & Kate

Aberdeen Phillips Field	4/23
Annapolis	4/19
Assateague	4/16
Baltimore-Washington Airport	4/24
Beltsville	5/4
Catoctin Mountain Park	5/5
Chestertown	4/21
Clarksville 3 NNE	5/11
Conowingo Dam	4/28
Dalecarlia Reservoir	4/30
Emmitsburg 2 SE	5/13
Frederick	4/22
Glenn Dale Bell STN	5/10
Laurel 3 W	4/20
Millington 1 SE	5/3
National Arboretum DC	4/24
Oakland 1 SE	5/31
Princess Anne	5/5
Rockville 1 NE	4/29
Royal Oak 2 SSW	4/16
Salisbury	4/21
Salisbury FAA Airport	4/27
Savage River Dam	5/18
Snow Hill 4 N	5/3
Upper Marlboro 3 NNW	5/4
Vienna	4/21

TIPPOLLY FARM

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Source: National Climatic Data Center - U.S. Department of Commerce (50% Probability of frost 36 degrees F)

*****Note: Have some row cover material handy in case a frost is predicted later than expected.*****

Freeze/Frost Occurance Data

Q. If frost cannot occur at temperatures above 32 degrees F, then why does Tippolly Farm use the National Climatic Data Center's 36 degree F portion of the NOAA Freeze/Frost Table?

A. You may have seen a few websites that reference the 32 Degree F portion of the table to give recommended average frost dates. While that seems logical, one needs to understand that frost will occur at ground level before it will at a slightly higher elevation. The official weather measurements are actually taken in an instrument shelter that is between 1.25 and 2 meters (4.1 to 6.6 ft) above ground level in special instrument shelters that are called Stevenson Screens. That recorded temperature is what is reported on radio, TV, newspapers, the internet, etc. They refer to this as the "Surface Temperature", although it is not actually the surface of the ground where plants are generally located.

The NOAA tables also include a 36 degree F table, which is a close approximation of the temperature at the Stevenson Screen when the ground surface is at 32 degrees F. You can view this complete table (including fall frost dates), at:

http://cdo.ncdc.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/climatenormals/climatenormals.pl?directive=prod_select2&prodtype=CLIM2001&subrnum%20to%20Freeze/Frost%20Data%20from%20the%20U.S.%20Climate%20Normals

Even though you may still need to use a good row cover when frost is predicted (we use the 50% probability data), we feel that it is safer, will be less work, and you will have healthier crops if you wait until the 36 Degree F average rolls around. Of course there are also areas called "Micro Climates" like we have here at Tippolly Farm. Our pond is always cooler than it is where we have our raised vegetable beds (which are uphill). Raised beds will also tend to be warmer than the ground temperature.

If you live in a very cold climate, you may not be able to plant a fall crop and in that case, you may need to dismiss the fall dates on the Vegetable Planting Guide.

So pick a convienient spot to plant your garden, follow our timetable for planting based on whatever average frost date that you gave us, and most of all, enjoy the fruits of your efforts.

If there is a number and designation like "16 NNE", that means the governments location of the test enclosure is 16 miles North Northeast of the center of the Town in question.

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