

Subject: Approximate First and Last Frost Dates in California

Description: California has many climate zones and the number of frost days will vary within small areas. However, there are historical references available from the National Weather Service that can approximate when the first and last frost date might occur in your area. These dates help you to know when you might safely plant frost-tender vegetables in your garden or the length of your growing season. The following table provides approximate dates where there is a 10% chance and a 50% chance for frost (temperatures that are 32° F or lower) and the number of days at 32° F and 28° F and above for various communities in California.

Approximate Frost Dates in California						
Community	Probability of Frost (Spring) (month/day)		Probability of Frost (Fall) (month/day)		# of Frost Free Days* at 32° F or higher	# of Days* at 28° F or higher
	50%	10%	10%	50%		
Alameda	--	1/17	12/26	--	365	365
Auburn	2/18	4/02	11/09	12/01	232	312
Bakersfield	1/25	2/24	11/15	12/11	277	321
Berkeley	--	1/18	12/25	--	365	365
Bishop	5/04	5/25	9/29	10/15	137	157
Chico	3/21	4/24	10/29	11/14	196	258
Davis	2/26	4/08	10/31	11/28	226	282
Eureka	1/27	3/12	11/13	12/16	274	365
Fairfield	2/07	3/16	11/14	12/06	255	306
Fresno	2/04	3/20	11/06	12/03	246	300
Half Moon Bay	--	3/07	12/09	--	306	365
Lakeport	4/16	5/07	10/11	11/03	163	197
Lompoc	2/08	3/23	11/11	12/14	259	329
Long Beach	--	1/08	12/23	--	365	365
Los Angeles	--	--	--	--	365	365
Marysville	1/25	2/26	11/17	12/09	280	320
Modesto	2/01	3/03	11/16	12/08	268	313
Mendocino	2/19	4/12	11/05	12/07	229	332
Monterey	--	1/27	12/18	--	365	365
Napa	2/22	4/06	11/05	12/05	277	310
Palm Springs	1/04	3/07	11/29	2/01	309	359
Pasadena	--	2/08	12/12	--	365	365
Paso Robles	4/05	5/14	10/11	10/29	160	217
Placerville	4/10	5/10	10/20	11/09	171	214
Riverside	1/26	3/07	11/18	12/23	272	365
Sacramento	2/10	3/20	12/04	1/01	250	306
Salinas	7/22	3/01	11/17	12/10	217	365
San Bernardino	1/21	3/09	11/23	12/24	265	365
San Diego	--	--	--	--	365	365
San Jose	1/11	2/10	11/24	12/26	301	365
San Luis Obispo	1/24	3/29	11/10	12/30	247	352
San Rafael/Marin	1/24	4/15	11/19	1/02	242	365
Santa Rosa	2/21	4/05	11/05	12/07	228	291
Sonora	4/19	5/17	10/11	11/04	164	200
Stockton	2/13	3/14	11/14	11/30	254	293
Ukiah	3/18	4/17	10/29	11/16	203	266
Victorville	4/02	4/24	10/22	11/03	189	226
Visalia	1/28	3/02	11/12	12/06	267	315
Woodland	1/31	2/28	11/13	12/04	267	307
**Yuba city	--	4/08	11/08	--	--	--

* Indicates a 90% probability for number of days at 32° F and 28° F or higher.

Data compiled from: National Weather Service Data, Climatology of California-Freeze/Frost Occurrence Data, 1971-2000.

** Data from county Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

Publication and web links: <http://cdo.ncdc.noaa.gov/climatenormals/clim20supp1/states/CA.pdf>

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