

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 However, there are historical references available from the National Weather Service that can approximate when the first and last frost date might occur in your area.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 the first and last frost date (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 First and Last Freeze Dates in California						
Community	Probability of Last Freeze Date (Spring) (month/day)		Probability of First Freeze Date (Fall) (month/day)		# of Frost Free Days* at 32° F or higher	# of Days* at 28° F or higher
	10%	50%	10%	50%		
Alameda	1/17	--	12/26	--	>365	>365
Auburn	4/02	2/18	11/09	12/01	232	312
Bakersfield	2/24	1/25	11/15	12/11	277	321
Berkeley	1/18	--	12/25	--	>365	>365
Bishop	5/25	5/04	9/29	10/15	137	157
Chico	4/24	3/21	10/29	11/14	196	258
Davis	4/08	2/26	10/31	11/28	226	282
Eureka	3/12	1/27	11/13	12/16	274	>365
Fairfield	3/16	2/07	11/14	12/06	255	306
Fresno	3/20	2/04	11/06	12/03	246	300
Half Moon Bay	3/07	--	12/09	--	306	>365
Lakeport	5/07	4/16	10/11	11/03	163	197
Lompoc	3/23	2/08	11/11	12/14	259	329
Long Beach	1/08	--	12/23	--	>365	>365
Los Angeles	--	--	--	--	>365	>365
Marysville	2/26	1/25	11/17	12/09	280	320
Modesto	3/03	2/01	11/16	12/08	268	313
Mendocino	4/12	2/19	11/05	12/07	229	332
Monterey	1/27	--	12/18	--	>365	>365
Napa	4/06	2/22	11/05	12/05	277	310
Palm Springs	3/07	1/04	11/29	2/01	309	359
Pasadena	2/08	--	12/12	--	>365	>365
Paso Robles	5/14	4/05	10/11	10/29	160	217
Placerville	5/10	4/10	10/20	11/09	171	214
Riverside	3/07	1/26	11/18	12/23	272	>365
Sacramento	3/20	2/10	12/04	1/01	250	306
Salinas	3/01	7/22	11/17	12/10	217	>365
San Bernardino	3/09	1/21	11/23	12/24	265	>365
San Diego	--	--	--	--	>365	>365
San Jose	2/10	1/11	11/24	12/26	301	>365
San Luis Obispo	3/29	1/24	11/10	12/30	247	352
San Rafael/Marin	4/15	1/24	11/19	1/02	242	365
Santa Rosa	4/05	2/21	11/05	12/07	228	291
Sonora	5/17	4/19	10/11	11/04	164	200
Stockton	3/14	2/13	11/14	11/30	254	293
Ukiah	4/17	3/18	10/29	11/16	203	266
Victorville	4/24	4/02	10/22	11/03	189	226
Visalia	3/02	1/28	11/12	12/06	267	315
Woodland	2/28	1/31	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/climatnormals/clim20supp1/states/CA.pdf>