

REVISED MAP DETAILS DATES OF LAST KILLING FROST AROUND WISCONSIN

With March comes a real sense that spring is just around the corner. And with that thought comes the annual question, "When is the last frost of the passing winter season?" That date has considerable influence on early season management of golf courses.

The newly revised edition of "WISCONSIN CROPS (from planting to harvest) AND WISCONSIN WEATHER" contains a wealth of information of value to Wisconsin agriculturalists. Among the most interesting changes in this updated booklet is State Meteorologist Douglas Clark's more detailed and more accurate map that shows when residents can expect the last killing frost in the spring. That date varies from April 26th in the south to June 5th in the northern counties along Lake Superior.

Both the older map and the revised map are reproduced here. The older map shows more general areas of the last killing frost dates. The new map shows frost pockets where frosts can occur later, and more accurately, maps the boundaries of dates. Data from 1951 to 1980, gathered at 72 weather reporting stations in the state, were used to determine weather patterns as dictated by the last killing frosts.

Also, take a look at the table following — it lists probable dates of the last occurrence of 32 degrees F. in the spring at a number of locations in the state. It covers the years 1951 to 1980 only. The probabilities indicate the

likelihood of observing 32 degrees F. after the given date in the spring. The values corresponding to the 50% probability level are known as median

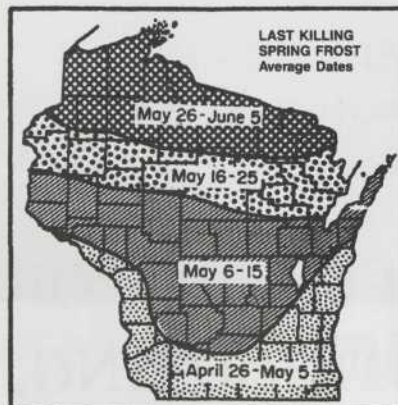
values. These values are in the middle of all observations, so that half the years have an earlier date and half have a later date.

MSM

PROBABLE DATES OF SPRING FREEZE (32°F).

Location	Spring freeze dates (mo/day)		
	80%	50%	20%
Antigo	5/13	5/23	6/03
Appleton	4/23	5/02	5/10
Ashland	5/21	6/01	6/13
Blair	5/11	5/19	6/13
Crivitz	5/13	5/23	6/02
Darlington	5/02	5/12	5/22
Fond du Lac	4/25	5/04	5/14
Grantsburg	5/07	5/20	6/02
Hillsboro	5/04	5/15	5/26
Janesville	4/20	4/28	5/06
Kenosha	4/19	4/28	5/07
Ladysmith	5/13	5/22	6/01
Lancaster	4/24	5/04	5/15
Montello	4/28	5/09	5/20
Oconto	5/07	5/16	5/24
Oshkosh	4/28	5/08	5/19
Park Falls	5/12	5/19	5/27
Prairie du Chien	4/22	5/03	5/13
Rhineland	5/12	5/19	5/25
River Falls	4/19	5/08	5/17
Sheboygan	4/19	4/25	5/02
Spooner	5/17	5/28	6/08
Stoughton	4/22	4/30	5/09
Sturgeon Bay	5/08	5/17	5/26
Watertown	4/24	5/04	5/15
Wausau	4/30	5/08	5/17
West Allis	4/16	4/23	5/01
Wisconsin Rapids	5/09	5/18	5/26

NEW MAPS DETAIL DATES OF LAST FROST



The old map by Douglas Clark.



The new map by Douglas Clark.