DELTA RIDGE TECHNOLOGIES

Gardener's Journal

Two frost dates, and everything else is arithmetic

START WITH TWO DATES AND EVERYTHING ELSE FOLLOWS



Almost every planting instruction in every book is written relative to two days: your last frost in spring and your first frost in autumn. Write both down here, and the rest of this journal tells you when to do what.

MY TWO DATES

	DATE	HOW I KNOW
Average last frost		
Average first frost		
Growing season, days		

FINDING THEM

Your county extension office publishes both dates, usually as a spring and autumn range with a ten percent risk figure. Use the later spring date and the earlier autumn date if you want to be safe, and expect the odd year to break the rule. If you only know your planting zone, it is a rough guide to winter cold, not to frost dates, so ask locally.

HOW TO READ THIS JOURNAL	WHAT IT MEANS
Weeks before last frost	How long before your spring date you sow or set out
Weeks after last frost	Count forward from your spring date
Weeks before first frost	Count back from your autumn date, for a second crop
Days to harvest	From sowing for direct crops, from transplant for started ones

The one rule. Soil temperature matters more than the calendar. A thermometer pushed two inches down, read at mid morning, is the cheapest tool in the garden and it stops you planting into cold ground that rots seed.

SAMPLE

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