

THE FROST FREE DATE

Key Points About the "Frost Free Date"

- It is an average date, so sometimes there can be cold temperatures even after 5-15 – be prepared to protect any plant that is tender.
- It is not just the air temperature that can make a plant happy or unhappy – the soil temperature is often even more important.
- As of May 18, it is safe to plant the plants that are "offended" by colder temperatures.



Featured Plants for the "Frost Free Date"

Classic sub-tropical plants that have so much color:

- New Guinea Impatiens – "Infinity Blushing Crimson" (shade or sun)
- Fuchsia Standard (tree form, morning sun, afternoon shade)
- Geranium "Patriot Bright Violet" (full sun)
- Mandevilla "Red Riding Hood" trained vine (sun)



Heat loving annuals:

- Angelonia (white) – loves hot and dry conditions, but looks so delicate (sun)
- Cleome (purple) – Spider Flower – gets 3-4' tall lasts all summer (sun)
- Annual Flowering Vinca (cherry red)- looks like regular impatiens but loves hot, dry (sun)
- Zinnias "Magellan Mix" – not too tall, not too short, great colors all summer (sun)

Trailing plants:

- Bacopa – beautiful white flowering trailer (sun or shade)
- Baby Blue Eyes – beautiful blue flowers on cascading stems (sun)

Vegetables and Herbs (all of these would have grown poorly if planted earlier):

- Basil – completely offended by temperatures below 40 degrees F – note damaged leaves
- Tomatoes – "Tomatoberry", shaped like a strawberry, with a pointed end and very sweet
- Peppers – "Super Banana", yellow and sweet; "Red Beauty", sweet red bell type; "Salsarific", spicy with some heat; and "Whopper", a large bell type
- Cucumber "Burpless" – best to avoid cucumber beetle pest
- Squash "Vegetable Spagetti"
- Corn – Sweet and Popcorn
- Eggplant "Whopper"