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About Yearly Low Temperatures

The next two tables describe experiences with yearly low temperatures. The low temperature for the year defines in an important way how well tropical and semi-tropical plants will survive. Many varieties of healthy citrus trees will survive 22° with no damage, while papayas have trouble below 30° and mangoes at 26°. There are other issues related to this--how dormant the plant is, how healthy it is, how many hours the temperature stays at this number, and how thick the trees limbs are. The first table below describes the month of the year's lowest temperature and the second table describes what the temperature was.

	AP 2000-2007	AP 1997-07	AP 1997-07	AP 1997-07
Month of Min Temp	Tomball	Conroe	Huntsville	College Station
November			10%	
December	43%	30%	20%	40%
January	14%	43%	50%	40%
February	36%	23%	20%	15%
March	7%	4%		5%
	2000-2007	1997-07	1997-07	1997-07
Min Yearly Temperature	Tomball	Conroe	Huntsville	College Station
Below 15	0%	0%	0%	0%
15-17	0%	0%	0%	10%
18-20	14%	10%	30%	10%
21-23	0%	40%	30%	10%
24-26	43%	30%	20%	60%
27-29	43%	20%	20%	10%
Above 29	0%	0%	0%	0%

About Frosts in the Interior Zone

Knowing when the first and last freezes of the winter will occur at a location helps gardeners in many ways. If some of one's plants may be damaged, one can be ready to protect them. The number of frosts over the entire winter, by contrast, gives a measure of how frequently one may need to protect something. If you typically have 30 freezes, it is probably foolish to grow either papayas or tomatoes outside except in a greenhouse. But if there are typically only one or two frosts or none, it can be worthwhile to protect a single plant planted in a north-wind-protected place outside.

This zone has very frequent freezes every winter with lows in the high teens, so citrus other than kumquats and perhaps satsumas on trifoliolate should only be tried in protected places. As well, planting dates for fall vegetables will be very important since hard freezes will ruin many cool

weather vegetables. At the same time, brussels sprouts, rhubarb, asparagus, and cherries should do well.

	2000-2007	1997-07	2001-07	1997-07
Freeze #s	Tomball	Conroe	Huntsville	College Station
less than 8	0%	0%	0%	0%
8 to 12	43%	0%	14%	20%
13 to 19	43%	29%	43%	60%
20 to 26	14%	29%	29%	20%
27 to 33	0%	29%	14%	0%
34 to 40	0%	14%	0%	0%
Over 40	0%	0%	0%	0%

	2000-2007	1997-07	2001-07	1997-07
First Frost	Tomball	Conroe	Huntsville	College Station
Before Nov 1	0%	0%	0%	0%
Nov 1 to 15	14%	10%	10%	20%
Nov 16-30	43%	70%	60%	20%
Dec 1-15	43%	20%	20%	50%
Dec 16-31	0%	0%	10%	10%
After Dec 31	0%	0%	0%	0%

	2000-2007	1997-07	2001-07	1997-07
Last Frost	Tomball	Conroe	Huntsville	College Station
Before Jan 16	0%	0%	0%	0%
Jan 16-31	14%	10%	20%	10%
Feb 1-14	43%	40%	20%	30%
Feb 16-29	14%	0%	20%	10%
Mar 1-15	29%	30%	30%	40%
Mar 16-31	0%	20%	10%	10%
After Mar 31	0%	0%	0%	0%

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