

## Frost and Growing Season Information for Northern Illinois

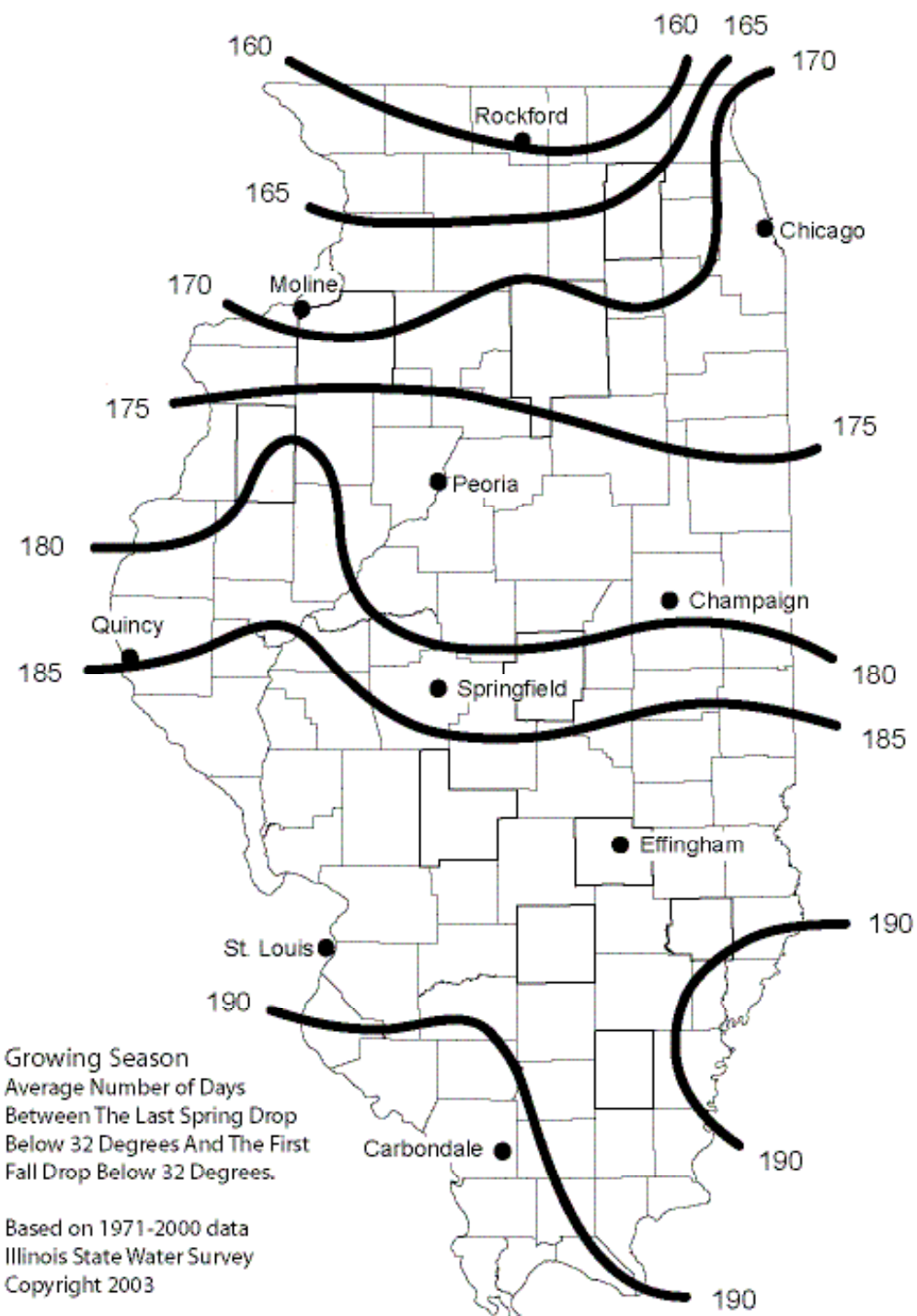
Frost in Illinois is usually not measured directly at weather stations. Instead, it is inferred from the air temperature. In this case, the date when the air temperature crosses the threshold of 32°F is used.

The actual frost date varies from year to year. For tender plants, add two weeks to the average date in the spring to protect against the possibility of late season frost. In the fall, subtract two weeks from the average date to protect against an early frost.

Although 32°F is the temperature traditionally used to identify frost, visible frost can be seen on the ground and objects when temperatures are slightly above 32°F on calm, clear nights that allow cold, dense air to collect near the ground. Under these conditions, the temperature near the ground actually can be a few degrees cooler than at the 5-foot height of the official National Weather Service thermometer.

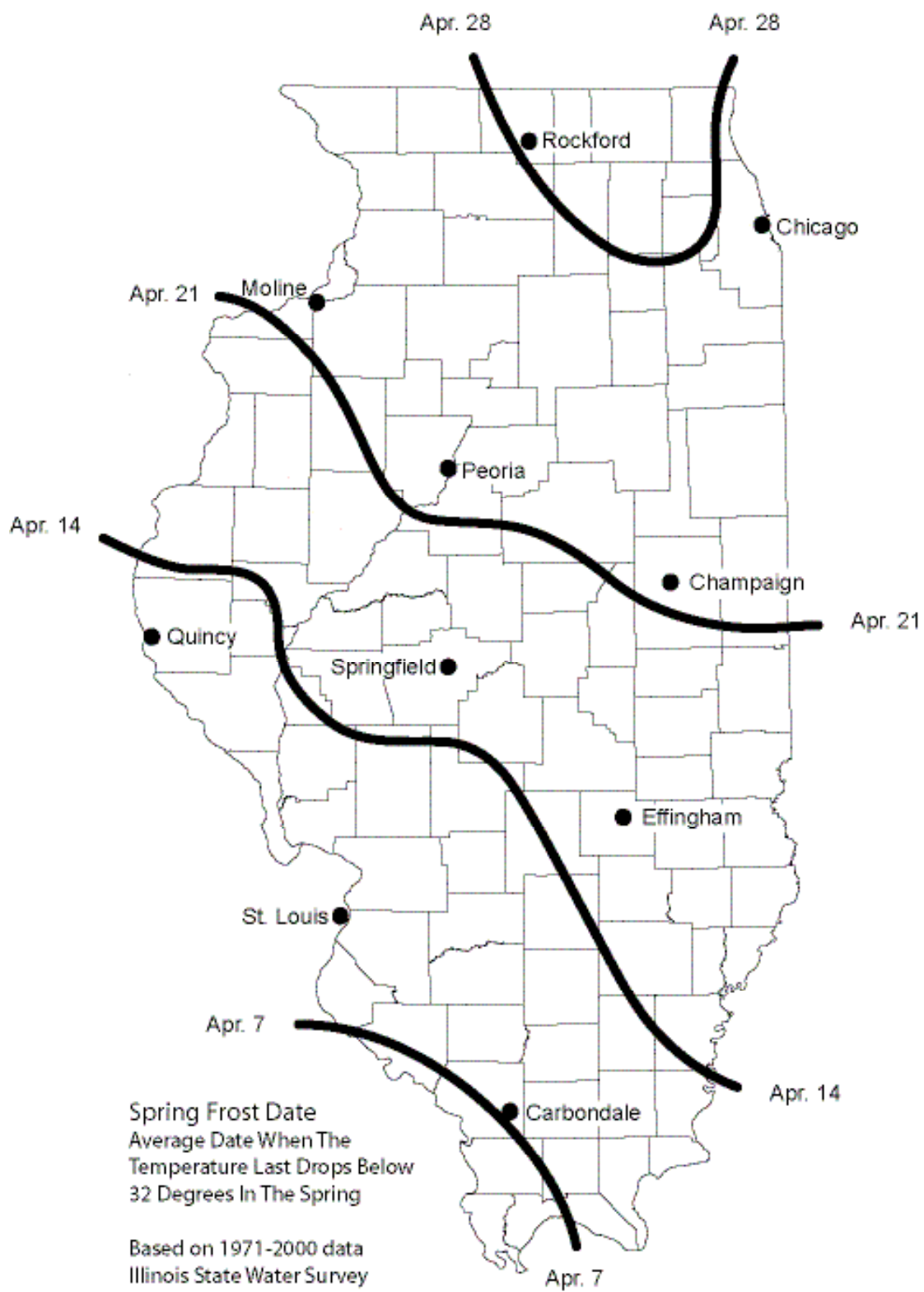
Open, grassy areas are usually the first to experience frost, while areas under trees are more protected because the trees help prevent the heat from escaping. Homeowners can protect tender plants by providing this same type of protection if they cover their plants when a frost is expected. Plants near heated buildings sometimes are spared too. Because of the abundance of warm buildings and trees in towns, they tend to experience frost less often than those living in the country.

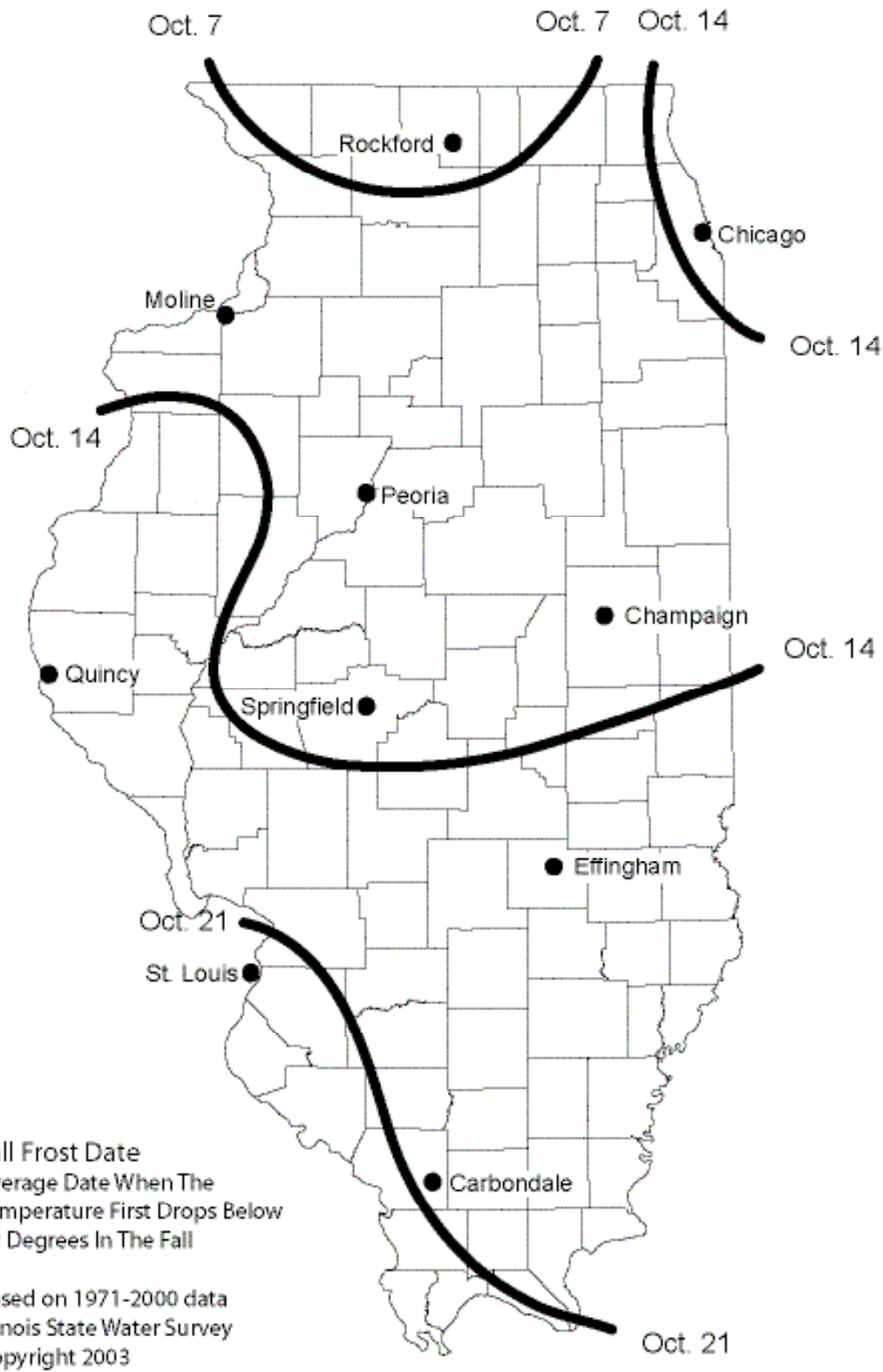
All Information courtesy of Illinois State Water Survey



Growing Season  
 Average Number of Days  
 Between The Last Spring Drop  
 Below 32 Degrees And The First  
 Fall Drop Below 32 Degrees.

Based on 1971-2000 data  
 Illinois State Water Survey  
 Copyright 2003





Fall Frost Date  
 Average Date When The  
 Temperature First Drops Below  
 32 Degrees In The Fall

Based on 1971-2000 data  
 Illinois State Water Survey  
 Copyright 2003

## Growing Season Summary for O'Hare Field

Derived from 1971-2000 Averages

Temp °F	Date of Last Spring Occurrence					Date of First Fall Occurrence				
	Median		Early	90%	10%	Late	Median	Early	90%	
	10%	Late								
32	4/24	4/05	4/09	5/10	5/26	10/14	9/22	9/30	10/31	11/06
30	4/18	3/26	4/05	5/05	5/09	10/20	9/23	10/02	11/10	11/19
28	4/10	3/24	4/04	4/23	5/09	10/25	9/23	10/10	11/15	11/19
24	4/05	3/13	3/22	4/14	4/22	11/09	10/20	10/26	11/24	12/21
20	3/20	2/22	3/11	4/07	4/10	11/18	10/23	11/04	12/03	12/21
16	3/12	2/07	2/15	4/01	4/09	11/29	11/02	11/11	12/11	12/21

Length of Growing Season (Days)

Derived from 1971-2000 Averages

Temp °F	Median	Shortest		10%	90%	Longest
32	172	138	147	199	215	
30	182	162	166	214	226	
28	197	167	174	221	228	
24	217	197	200	242	280	
20	238	207	219	264	283	
16	263	222	237	285	296	

## Growing Season Summary for Midway

Derived from 1971-2000 Averages

Temp °F	Date of Last Spring Occurrence					Date of First Fall Occurrence				
	Median		Early	90%	10%	Late	Median	Early	90%	
	10%	Late								
32	4/17	3/26	4/06	5/10	5/16	10/23	10/01	10/07	11/12	11/19
30	4/10	3/23	3/27	4/23	5/12	11/02	10/02	10/17	11/13	11/19
28	4/08	3/18	3/22	4/17	5/12	11/04	10/02	10/21	11/20	11/27
24	3/24	3/08	3/13	4/10	4/19	11/13	10/24	11/03	12/03	12/21
20	3/16	2/12	2/24	4/06	4/09	11/22	10/24	11/07	12/11	12/21
16	3/03	1/27	2/09	4/01	4/07	12/03	11/02	11/16	12/20	12/24

Length of Growing Season (Days)

Derived from 1971-2000 Averages

Temp °F	Median	Shortest		10%	90%	Longest
32	187	143	157	215	226	
30	205	160	179	221	228	
28	212	164	193	239	251	
24	234	207	213	257	281	
20	250	222	229	283	285	
16	275	222	240	297	324	

## Growing Season Summary for Botanical Gardens

Derived from 1971–2000 Averages

Temp °F	Date of Last Spring Occurrence					Date of First Fall Occurrence				
	Median		Early	90%	10%	Late	Median	Early	90%	
	10%	Late								
32	4/25	4/09	4/13	5/16	5/27	10/12	9/22	9/30	11/01	11/06
30	4/22	3/28	4/07	4/30	5/07	10/22	9/23	10/03	11/08	11/12
28	4/11	3/25	4/03	4/24	4/28	10/24	10/08	10/10	11/17	11/20
24	4/06	3/12	3/18	4/19	4/23	11/12	10/19	11/01	11/29	12/05
20	3/21	2/17	3/10	4/10	4/10	11/21	11/03	11/08	12/09	12/22
16	3/16	2/17	2/19	4/02	4/07	11/24	11/03	11/12	12/20	12/24

Length of Growing Season (Days)

Derived from 1981–2000 Averages

Temp °F	Median	Shortest		10%	90%	Longest
32	170	150	151	180	201	
30	188	152	160	211	214	
28	197	172	181	221	225	
24	219	197	202	247	248	
20	247	216	218	274	283	
16	267	221	225	283	285	

## Growing Season Summary for Antioch

Derived from 1971–2000 Averages

Temp °F	Date of Last Spring Occurrence					Date of First Fall Occurrence				
	Median		Early	90%	10%	Late	Median	Early	90%	
	10%	Late								
32	5/06	4/10	4/19	5/13	5/27	10/10	9/22	9/24	10/22	10/24
30	4/28	3/26	4/08	5/10	5/13	10/13	9/22	9/24	11/03	11/11
28	4/22	3/26	4/06	5/07	5/08	10/28	9/25	10/03	11/12	11/20
24	4/10	3/22	3/29	4/22	4/29	11/05	10/02	10/20	11/22	12/21
20	3/26	2/21	3/16	4/09	4/12	11/13	10/20	11/02	11/30	12/22
16	3/20	2/14	3/03	4/07	4/09	11/22	11/06	11/09	12/08	12/22

Length of Growing Season (Days)

Derived from 1971–2000 Averages

Temp °F	Median	Shortest		10%	90%	Longest
32	161	135	138	179	187	
30	171	137	140	211	217	
28	186	148	149	214	225	
24	206	176	193	229	274	
20	224	207	210	266	281	
16	250	218	221	281	284	

## Growing Season Summary for DeKalb

Derived from 1971–2000 Averages

Temp °F	Date of Last Spring Occurrence					Date of First Fall Occurrence				
	Median		Early	90%	10%	Late	Median	Early	90%	
	10%	Late								
32	4/28	3/28	4/12	5/12	5/27	10/08	9/19	9/23	10/22	11/01
30	4/22	3/25	4/08	5/12	5/27	10/13	9/19	9/24	11/04	11/08
28	4/13	3/24	4/04	4/30	5/11	10/21	9/26	10/03	11/10	11/20
24	4/07	3/14	3/24	4/21	5/07	11/03	10/07	10/19	11/18	11/22
20	3/23	2/27	3/14	4/09	4/13	11/11	10/20	10/27	11/27	11/29
16	3/17	2/17	2/24	4/04	4/09	11/22	10/31	11/05	12/10	12/22

Length of Growing Season (Days)

Derived from 1971–2000 Averages

Temp °F	Median	Shortest		10%	90%	Longest
32	164	125	138	183	204	
30	175	125	142	208	213	
28	193	146	162	219	225	
24	213	174	186	232	240	
20	229	194	209	256	265	
16	253	222	229	280	284	

## Growing Season Summary for Kankakee

Derived from 1971–2000 Averages

Temp °F	Date of Last Spring Occurrence					Date of First Fall Occurrence				
	Median		Early	90%	10%	Late	Median	Early	90%	
	10%	Late								
32	4/19	3/29	4/09	5/08	5/28	10/11	9/23	9/28	10/22	11/05
30	4/14	3/27	4/05	4/29	5/06	10/19	9/27	10/05	11/05	11/14
28	4/10	3/18	3/25	4/23	5/07	10/23	10/02	10/08	11/13	11/20
24	4/03	3/03	3/16	4/12	4/21	11/08	10/20	10/25	11/21	11/27
20	3/20	3/03	3/11	4/09	4/11	11/20	10/24	11/03	12/05	12/21
16	3/11	2/09	2/15	3/28	4/07	11/29	11/03	11/10	12/20	12/21

Length of Growing Season (Days)

Derived from 1971–2000 Averages

Temp °F	Median	Shortest		10%	90%	Longest
32	174	141	143	193	206	
30	188	150	166	208	216	
28	200	150	175	226	239	
24	222	200	203	235	266	
20	245	206	218	263	281	
16	266	221	234	289	300	