

# I just got a freeze warning, now what?

## What to do before the cold hits

- **Bring tender plants indoors**

If you have tropicals, annuals, or potted plants that aren't winter-hardy, move them into a garage, shed, or indoor area that stays above freezing. Containers expose roots to cold air and are much more vulnerable.

- **Water the soil**

Moist soil retains more heat than dry soil, so giving your potted plants a good watering before the freeze helps protect roots and soil.

- **Insulate the pot & roots**

Move pots closer together or against a wall for shared insulation.

Wrap the pot (not just the plant) with bubble wrap, burlap, or other insulating material to protect the container and root zone from rapid temperature drop.

If the plant is staying outdoors, cover the foliage before nightfall with frost cloth, blankets, sheet or fabric — but make sure the covering does not rest right on the leaves (use stakes/hoops to tent it).

- **Pick a protected spot**

Place potted plants in a sheltered location: near the house, under the eaves, on the east/south side, out of strong wind. The less exposure the better.

## What to do during/overnight

- Cover before dusk so that the trap of warmer air near the ground works. Cold settles at night and in containers the effect can be worse.
- Ensure the covering extends to the soil/ground to trap that heat. Remove or vent it when the temperature rises to avoid heat-buildup under the cover.