

October - Week 3

Frost and the End of the Growing Season

Our average low temperatures during the third week of October are around 40 degrees. This means it can be quite common for mornings to be frosty. A variety of activity is occurring in our local fields and gardens as temperatures dip into the thirties and frosts, and even freezes, mark the end of the growing season. Farmers are busy harvesting their last crops and plowing their fields. Many people try to extend the growing and blooming season of their outdoor plants in their yards by covering them at night so they are not killed by frost. Some gardeners are preparing their gardens for winter by tilling them while others plant tulips or other bulb plants before the ground hardens. The bulbs overwinter in the soil and will be some of the earliest blooming flowers in gardens across the state next spring. Are you or your family preparing a garden or field for winter? If so, what are you doing?

Have you seen a frost yet this year? This week, observe the vegetation in your yard or school yard in the morning. Also look for signs of frost on roofs and the on the windows of cars that were parked outside overnight. Make note of any frosts that occur this week. If you notice a frost, go outside and observe the weather conditions. Is it calm or windy? Are the birds singing or is it quiet? Look at the leaves and stems of some plants. How were they affected by the frost? Document your findings in words and pictures.

