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Expecting Freezing Temperatures?

With the freezing temperatures in the forecast for many of our customers, you need to be vigilant about protecting your onions. Here are some helpful tips and facts to keep your crop safe as they develop.

Insulation is CRUCIAL!

Onions can withstand frosts and moderate freezes, but you must shield them from hard freezes -- that is, periods of at least four hours of temperatures below 25 degrees. They can survive temperatures as low as 20 degrees, but not for long.

mulch, grass clippings, etc. Moist soil, snow, and even ice act as insulation, holding heat in the soil around the bulb and root. Coverings further help by keeping the plants protected from the biting cold and wind.



Identifying After-Freeze Damage

Once a hard freeze has occurred, you need to examine your onions right away. Take a close look at the exposed portion of your onion bulbs. If you see translucent skins or those that seem to be water-soaked, you're looking at freeze damage. With care, the onions can survive surface damage. Not all freeze damage is immediately obvious. In a few days, check your onions again for mushiness. Then pull up a few and cut into them at an angle to expose the inner rings. The plants that are mushy when you pull them up or that display internal translucence can't be saved.



How to identify freeze damage in your onion plants

Bouncing Back With Extra Care

After any hard freeze, the plants will need watering, since the ground usually dries out significantly during a freeze. Give your plants a couple of weeks to bounce back. They need time to generate more carbohydrates, which is their life source (not to mention their flavor source). If you see new leaves emerging, your plant's on its way to recovery! Check on your onion plants more often than usual for a few weeks, for signs of new growth.

We can't control Mother Nature, but we *can* take measures to minimize damage from hard freezes. Protecting your plants now will have big payouts at harvest time.

Feel free to contact us with questions at [\(830\) 876-2430](tel:8308762430) or email us customerservice@dixondalefarms.com.

Sincerely,



Bruce "The Onionman" and Jeanie Frasier



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