

I grew up listening to the weather warning from my elders that we had to watch out for the Three Frozen Kings when we put in our garden early. That is at least three days of a cold spell that makes the days miserable and either frosts or freezes at night. I've heard some say that if we are really having a global warming this this warning should shortly be a thing of the past. I'm hear to tell you I'm feeling the effects of the Three Frozen Kings this week. I actually turned our furnace on this morning after being cold for two days. Looks like Sunday, if the weather man is right, before The Kings get over being angry.

Three Frozen Kings, is a Czech legend that reminds us to protect our garden plants against a possible last frost in the middle of May. We need to be prepared to cover the plants with blankets, sheets, milk jugs or plastic coffee cans with the bottoms out. I use the coffee cans since we are coffee drinkers and put the lids on when I hear the frost warning.

The story is the three kings, (Pankrac on May 12, Servac on May 13 and Bonifac on May 14) were frozen when the temperature dropped while they were fishing at sea. I still haven't figured out if they were all in the same boat. If the other two kings saw Pankrac was already a Popsicle, don't you think that would have clued them that they should go home. They could have done a good deed and towed Pankrac back at the same time. It didn't work that way. On May 15, St. Zofie must have discovered al three kings were missing and knew what happened to them. He went after them with a kettle of hot water to thaw out the three frozen kings. I suppose that meant the days were going to get warmer on the 15<sup>th</sup> after St. Zofie poured hot water on the kings. Someone should tell Saint Zofie it didn't work this year. Today sure isn't any warmer than yesterday or the day before, but if this spring is like the last two, soon enough we will go into 100 degree days and drought. Do you suppose Saint Zofie had the water rtoo hot the last few years.

This many years into the future, you would think that Pankrac, Servac and Bonifac would have forgotten about their frozen experience by now. After all, as far as I know, no one insisted that they had to go fishing in bad weather. If they are mad at St. Zofie for the scalding water baths, no need to keep taking it out on us.

The legend was brought to Iowa by Czech immigrants, who found Iowa similar to their home country. I don't happen to be Czech. That was so many generations ago, most older folks only remember that their parents told them the story. They don't know where it came from.

Basically, if you live in Iowa or any other state in danger of a late frost, it's a good idea to wait until May 15 to plant your tomatoes, peppers and other tender vegetables, or at least provide them with some protection in case overnight temperatures drop below freezing. If the last three days are any indication of the mood the Three Frozen Kings are in right now, we best pay attention and do as they say. Not only do I need to cover my plants, but I have to get my winter coat back on just to please those three frozen kings so I can go to the garden to cover the plants.

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frozen when the temperature dropped while they were fishing at sea with a kettle of hot water to thaw out the three frozen kings. I suppose on the 15<sup>th</sup> after St. Zofie poured hot water on the kings. Today sure is like the last two, soon enough we will go right into 100 degree below the future, you would think that Pankrac, Servac and Bonifac would experience by now. We didn't do anything to them to be punched in scalding water baths, no need to keep taking it out on us. No one in a day that bad.

I understand the legend was brought to Iowa by Czech immigrants, home country. Basically, if you live in Iowa, it's a good idea to wait tomatoes, peppers and other tender vegetables, or at least provide them overnight temperatures drop below freezing. If the last three days a Three Frozen Kings are in, we better pay attention and do as they say.