

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

How to use the Hardiness Zone map:

If you're a gardener, even a gardener who is just starting out, you probably realize there are USDA Hardiness Zones spread throughout the United States. If you look at a basic USDA Hardiness Zone map, you will see the United States in varying shades of colors, including red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple. The Hardiness Zone map tells gardeners where plants will best thrive depending on the environment, mostly the temperature, of certain areas.

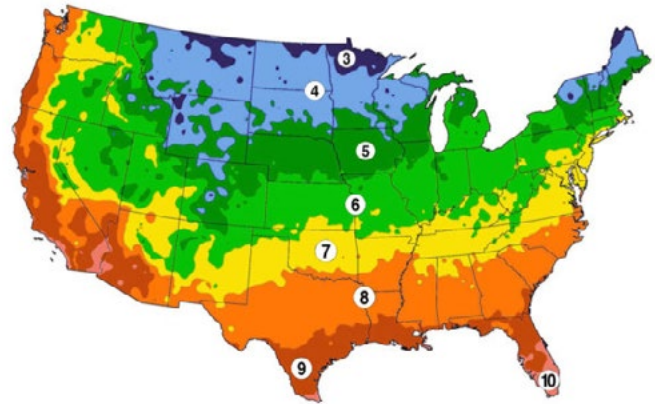
Typically, on the website page of the seed you purchase, there also will be information about that certain vegetable or flower detailing which USDA Hardiness Zone it is most likely to thrive in.

How the Hardiness Zone map operates:

The USDA Hardiness Zone map is based on the average annual minimum winter temperature, and the zones are divided by 10-degree Fahrenheit increments. There also is an interactive version of the map available where you can visit the USDA website and click on your specific state to see the varying USDA Hardiness Zones available. The site also offers the availability of entering your zip code so it can determine the Hardiness Zone in that zip code.

What the colors mean:

The map is split up into several colors that tell you what the minimum annual winter temperature is in each area, which then determines the Hardiness Zones. For the most part, the red color means an average minimum winter temperature between 45 and 70 degrees, depending on the shade of red. The orange has an average minimum



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winter temperature between 25 and 40 degrees. The yellow zone has an average minimum winter temperature between 10 and 20 degrees. The green zone has an average minimum winter temperature between -10 and 5 degrees. The blue zone has an average minimum winter temperature between -25 and -10 degrees. The purple zone has an average minimum winter temperature between -25 and -35 degrees. The pink zone has an average minimum winter temperature between -45 and -35 degrees. The lilac or white zone has an average minimum winter temperature between -60 and -45 degrees.

The majority of the United States is split into Zones 5-9, which encompasses the blue, green, yellow and orange colors. The colors help gardeners determine what season to grow their crops in, because crops will grow best in different months if a gardener plants them in Indiana, which varies in USDA Hardiness Zones 5 to 7, versus a gardener who plants those same crops in Florida, which varies in USDA Hardiness Zones 8-10.



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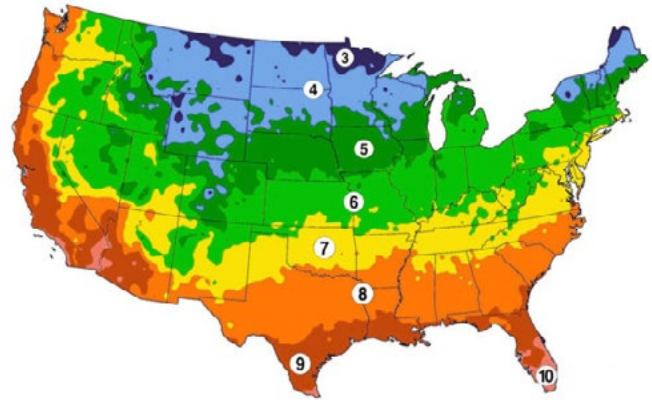


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Some states, like Florida, can't grow crops during the hottest months, but they can grow them during the winter. Other states, like Indiana, have to grow their hot-season crops like tomatoes and peppers throughout the summer, when the heat is the highest.



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