USDA Plant Hardiness Information

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The 2012 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map is the standard by which gardeners and growers can determine which plants are most likely to thrive at a location. The map is based on the average annual minimum winter temperature, divided into 10-degree F zones.



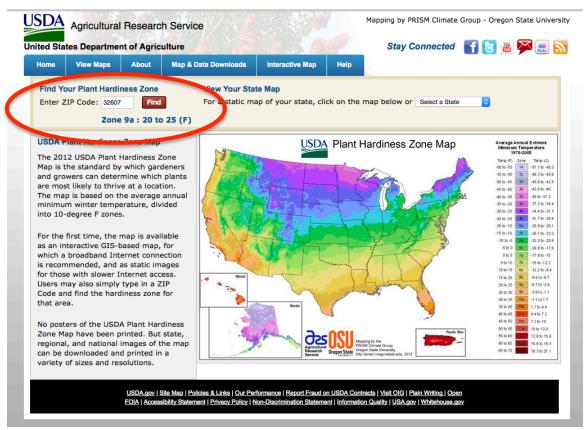
USDA plant hardiness maps for Florida showing 7 zones: 8a - 11a.

In Florida there are 7 zones defined according to the average annual minimum temperature observed in the state from 1976-2005:

Zone 8a: 10-15°F
Zone 8b: 15 to 20°F
Zone 9a: 20 to 25°F
Zone 9b: 25 to 30°F
Zone 10a: 30 to 35°F
Zone 10b: 35 to 40°F
Zone 11a: 40 to 45°F



The zone for a given location can be found using the online interactive map: http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/# using the zip code for the location of interest.

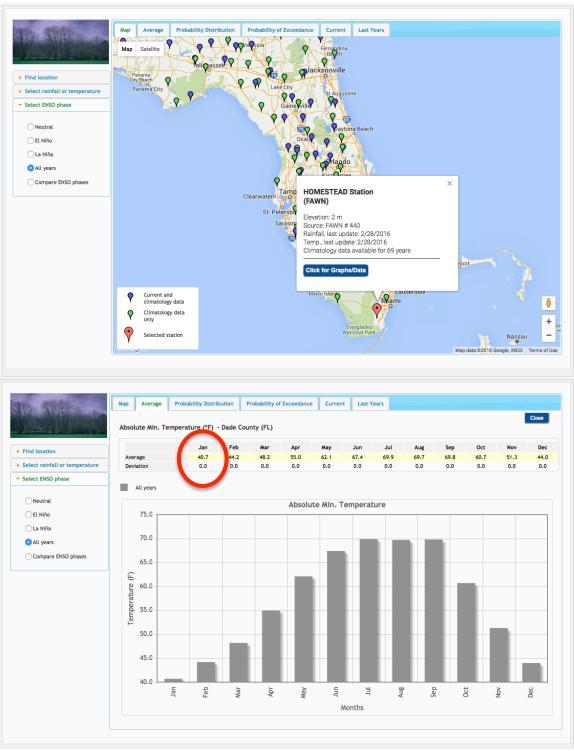


USDA plant hardiness tool indicating that for Zip Code 32607 is located in Zone 9a (20-25F).

It is relatively easy to verify if the information provided is still valid using a tool available on AgroClimate.org. Climatology for various weather stations in the Southeast US is available at: http://agroclimate.org/tools/climate-risk/

Users can select the station of interest on the map and click for displaying graphs and more information. Select "absolute min. temperature" on the left side menu, select "All years" under ENSO phase and check the month with the lowest temperature. In the case of the station selected in the figures below (Homestead), the lowest average absolute minimum temperature is observed in January and equal to 40.7°F. Indeed if we verify the range for Zone 11a (above) which is 40 to 45°F, Homestead is located in the Plant Hardiness zone 11a.





Climatology tool on AgroClimate ($\underline{\text{http://agroclimate.org/tools/climate-risk/}}$) showing that the average absolute minimum temperature for the weather station located at Homestead, FL is 40.7°F).

