

History of the USDA Hardiness Zone Map

Introduction:

The USDA Hardiness Zone Map has been a crucial resource for gardeners, farmers, landscapers, and researchers in the United States. This report explores the history of the planting zones defined by the USDA, detailing the evolution of the map over time.

1938 - Initial Version:

In 1938, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the first version of the planting zone map. This map divided the country into zones based on average annual minimum temperatures, ranging from Zone 1 (coldest) to Zone 10 (warmest). Subzones "a" and "b" provided further detail on temperature gradients within each zone.

1960 - Updated Version:

An updated version of the planting zone map was released in 1960. This version incorporated more recent temperature data and refinements in mapping techniques, providing gardeners with more accurate information for plant selection.

1990 - USDA Hardiness Zone Map:

In 1990, the USDA released a revised version known as the USDA Hardiness Zone Map. This updated map utilized sophisticated methods to calculate temperature zones, including data from a longer time period and improved mapping technology. It served as a valuable resource for gardeners across the country.

2012 - Latest Version:

The most recent version of the USDA Hardiness Zone Map was released in 2012. This version incorporated even more precise temperature data and mapping techniques, reflecting changes in temperature patterns, and providing gardeners with the most reliable information for plant selection and cultivation.

Conclusion:

Throughout its history, the USDA Hardiness Zone Map has been an essential tool for understanding and working with the unique climatic conditions of different regions across the United States. As temperatures continue to change, the map will undoubtedly undergo further updates to provide the most accurate and reliable information to gardeners and growers nationwide.

References:

- *United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)*
- *USDA Hardiness Zone Map archives*

Visit the USDA website to keep abreast of current information concerning your planting zones.



**Sample Planting Zone Map
List of US Planting Zones**

- Zone 1a
- Zone 1b
- Zone 2a
- Zone 2b
- Zone 3a
- Zone 3b
- Zone 4a
- Zone 4b
- Zone 5a
- Zone 5b
- Zone 6a
- Zone 6b
- Zone 7a
- Zone 7b
- Zone 8a
- Zone 8b
- Zone 9a
- Zone 9b
- Zone 10a
- Zone 10b
- Zone 11a
- Zone 11b
- Zone 12a
- Zone 12b
- Zone 13a

- Zone 13b