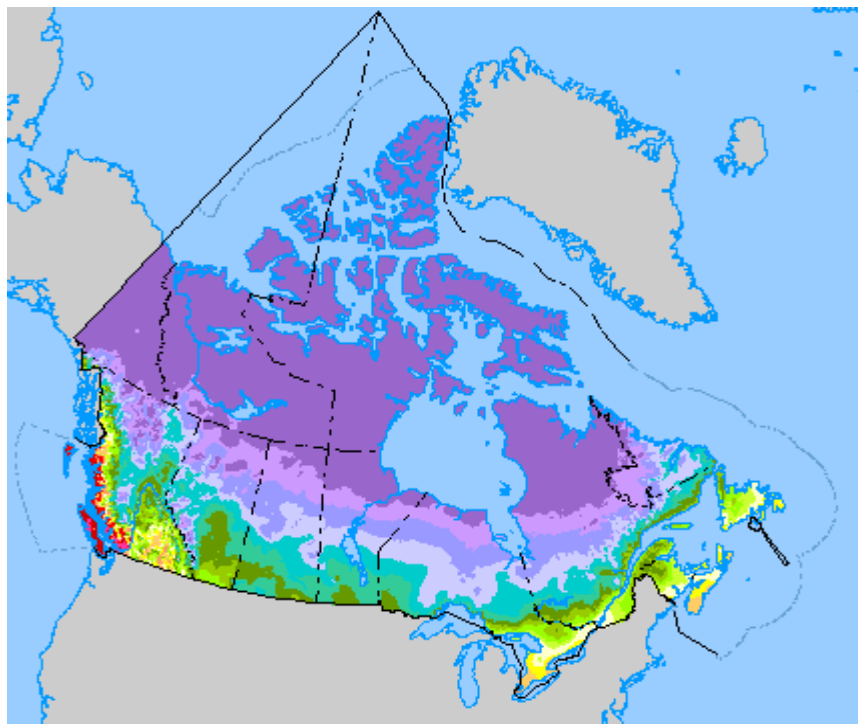
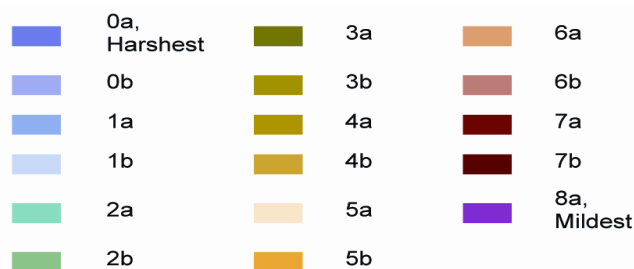


PLANT HARDINESS ZONES



The Plant Hardiness Zones Map provides an indication of the locations suitable for growing of trees and shrubs based on their ability to survive. Gardeners are familiar with this type of information because they use it to determine which plants to grow.

ABSTRACT: Nine zones indicate the areas where various trees, shrubs and flowers are most likely to survive. These zones are calculated based on average climatic conditions and altitude of each area. The harshest zone is 0 and the mildest is 8. Each major zone is divided into subzones a and b (for example 3a and 3b) where zone a is slightly harsher than zone b.



METHODOLOGY: This map shows an index of suitability for growth of trees, shrubs and flowers. It is calculated for all the areas in the country, using an equation that integrates climatic data from the 1930 to 1990 period. The climatic data used to calculate the index are the minimum winter temperatures, the length of the frost-free period, summer rainfall, summer maximum temperatures,

snow cover, January rainfall and the maximum wind speed. Elevation data were also taken into account because of its direct effect on temperature and precipitation. Data are derived from a 2 kilometre by 2 kilometre grid.

INTERPRETATION OF THE MAP: The map is divided into nine major zones: the harshest is 0 and the mildest is 8. Each major zone is divided into subzones a and b (for example 3a and 3b) where zone a is slightly harsher than zone b. These nine zones are associated with probabilities of plant survival in relation to the average climatic conditions. However, some variations can occur within a zone because of significant local factors such as a change in the topography, variations of snow cover, year-to-year weather variations, exceptional weather events and even gardening techniques which have a significant impact on plant survival in any particular location.

The information presented on this map only gives a general indication of plant hardiness and is accurate to plus or minus two zones. In fact, errors can occur in station data and estimates between stations. The weather also fluctuates from year to year and the local variations may not be reflected on the map.

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