



## Extreme Conditions-Cold Hardy Guide

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*Where quality is always growing*

Extreme low winter temperature is a major factor when choosing landscape plants. If you choose plants that aren't cold hardy enough for your location they will not perform as expected, can become injured from cold, and can die as a result of the extreme cold temperatures. To help farmers and gardeners make decisions about what to plant in their areas, the USDA has established hardiness zones that are mapped on the USDA Hardiness Zone Map (See the website [Planthardiness.ars.usda.gov](http://Planthardiness.ars.usda.gov) for an interactive map to determine what zone your garden is in).

The hardiness zones are determined by the average minimum winter temperatures in an area. There are 13 zones in 10 degree increments which are further divided into 5 degree increments noted by an "a" or "b" within each zone. New York hardiness zones range from 7b in Long Island with minimum temps from 5 to 10° to 3b in the elevations of the Adirondack Mountains with minimum temperatures -35 to -30°. The lower the number of the zone the colder the minimum winter temperatures are.

On most labels for perennials and nursery stock, the coldest hardiness zone that a plant can survive in is listed. If you are planting in a zone with a higher number, you are planting into a warmer zone so the plant shouldn't be negatively affected by the area's lowest minimum temperatures. For example, if the label of a perennial plant says it will survive in Zone 3, then you are safe to plant in Zone 3 and higher, such as Zone 5. If you suspect that you live in an area that tends to be colder than surrounding areas, play it safe and choose plants that will survive in a zone colder. This is a guide intended to help you determine what plants will thrive in your garden.

### **Hardiness Zones of local towns and cities**

- Syracuse, Baldwinsville, Camillus, Onondaga, Fayetteville, Bridgeport – Zone 5b (-15° to -10° F)
- Cortland, Pompey, Cazenovia, Central Square, – Zone 5a (-20° to -15° F)
- Oswego – Zone 5b (-15° to -10° F) to 6a (-10° to -5° F) depending upon proximity to Lake Ontario
- Watertown – Zone 4b (-25° to -20° F)
- Rochester – Zone 6a (-10° to -5° F) to 6b (-5° to 0° F)
- Utica – 4b (-25° to -20° F) to 5a (-20° to -15° F)
- Old Forge – Zone 3b (-35° to -30° F)

### **Cold damage**

- Branches die back, sometimes looking black such as on roses. Evergreens may turn brown in spring.
- Deciduous plants may not break dormancy or break dormancy very late. Perennials may not start growing from the crown or are much smaller than the previous year.
- Flower buds may freeze, reducing flowers and fruit production the following growing season.

### **Factors that may affect your Hardiness Zone relative to surrounding areas in CNY**

- Higher elevations, such as the Adirondacks and hills south of Syracuse, have lower minimum winter temperatures
- Windchills from extreme winter winds don't affect minimum winter temperatures. Plants are generally at the ambient temperature so wind passing over them doesn't decrease temperature by removing heat as it would with, for example, the skin of a person. In fact, wind can help increase minimum temps by mixing colder air that has settled in low spots such as in a valley.
- Closer proximity to larger lakes such as Lake Ontario, Oneida Lake, and the Finger Lakes will increase minimum winter temps making those areas warmer
- There are areas north of Syracuse where zones change from warmer by Lake Ontario (Zone 6a) to much colder in the Tug Hill Plateau (3b) within 40 miles. It's important to understand and know your hardiness zone before you plant into these areas.

### **Cold Zone Plants**



## Zone 3 Perennials

### Botanical Name

Andropogon gerardi  
Schizachyrium scoparium

### Common Name

Big Blue Stem  
Little Blue Stem

## Zone 3 Perennials

### Botanical Name

Achillea mill, Most Varieties  
Alchemilla mollis  
Aralia cordata 'Sun King'  
Artemesia schmidtiana 'Nana'  
Asclepias tuberosa  
Aster divaricatus All Varieties  
Aster nova. All Varieties  
Athyrium nipo. All Varieties  
Bergenia All Varieties  
Brunnera All Varieties  
Campanula carp. All Varieties  
Chelone All Varieties  
Coreopsis verticillata

### Common Name

Yarrow Most Varieties  
Lady's Mantle  
Golden Japanese Spikenard  
Silvermound  
Butterfly Flower  
Wood's Aster  
New York Aster All Varieties  
Japanese Painted Fern  
Pigsqueak All Varieties  
Siberian Bugloss All Varieties  
Bellflower  
Turtlehead All Varieties  
Threadleaf Coreopsis  
Moonbeam  
Zagreb

Delphinium All Varieties  
Dianthus Some Varieties  
Dicentra spec. All Varieties  
Echinacea purp. All Varieties  
Eupatorium macu. All Varieties  
Gaillardia All Varieties  
Hemerocallis All Varieties  
Hosta All Varieties  
Iris siberica All Varieties  
Liatris spicata All Varieties  
Lobelia cardinalis  
Matteuccia struthiopteris  
Monarda Many Varieties  
Nepeta x fraassenii All Varieties  
Paeonia All Varieties  
Penstemon Hybrids  
Phlox pan. Most varieties  
Polemonium All Varieties  
Pulmonaria All Varieties  
Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldsturm'

Larkspur  
Pinks Some Varieties  
Bleeding Heart All Varieties  
Coneflower All Varieties  
PowWow Wild Berry, White  
Joe-Pye Weed All Varieties  
Blanketflower All Varieties  
Daylilies All Varieties  
Plantain Lily  
Siberian Iris All Varieties  
Blazing Star  
Cardinal Flower  
Ostrich Fern  
Bee Balm Many Varieties  
Catmint All Varieties  
Peony All Varieties  
Beardtongue  
'Dark Towers'  
'Husker Red'  
Tall Garden Phlox  
Jacob's Ladder All Varieties  
Lungwort All Varieties  
'Goldsturm' Black-eyed Susan

Salvia nemorosa All Varieties

Perennial Salvia All Varieties

### Botanical Name

Sedum spectabile  
Sedum Hybrids Most Varieties

### Common Name

Sedum Many Upright Varieties  
Sedum Hybrid Varieties  
Rock 'N Grow  
Rock 'N Low  
Rock 'N Round  
Hens & Chicks

Sempervivum All Varieties

## Zone 4 Trees

### Botanical Name

Acer griseum  
Acer palmatum 'Cider Hill'  
Acer platanoides 'Crimson King'  
Acer rubrum 'October Glory'  
Acer rubrum 'Red Sunset'  
Amelanchier 'Autumn Brilliance'  
Betula nigra Dura-Heat  
Cornus mas 'Golden Glory'  
Cornus kousa Galilean  
Gleditsia triacanthos  
Malus 'Coralburst'  
Malus 'Prairie Fire'  
Malus 'Robinson'  
Malus 'Royal Raindrops'  
Picea omorika  
Prunus Mt. St. Helens  
Quercus bicolor

### Common Name

Paperbark Maple  
'Cider Hill' Japanese Maple  
'Crimson King' Norway Maple  
'October Glory' Red Maple  
'Red Sunset' Red Maple  
'Autumn Brilliance' Serviceberry  
Dura-Heat River Birch  
'Golden Glory' Cornelian Cherry  
Galilean Kousa Dogwood  
Thornless Honeylocust  
'Coralburst' Crabapple  
'Prairie Fire' Crabapple  
'Robinson' Crabapple  
'Royal Raindrops' Crabapple  
Serbian Spruce  
Mt. St. Helen's Purple Plum  
Swamp White Oak

## Zone 4 Shrubs

### Botanical Name

Buxus Chicagoland Green  
Buxus Green Velvet  
Chamaecyparis pisi. 'Golden Mops'  
Clethra alnifolia All varieties  
Diervilla sess. Cool Splash  
Euonymus alatus 'Compactus'  
Forsythia 'Lynwood Gold'

### Common Name

Chicagoland Green Boxwood  
Green Velvet Boxwood  
'Golden Mops' Cypress  
Summersweet  
Dwf Bush Honeysuckle  
Dwarf Burning Bush  
'Lynwood Gold' Forsythia  
Hydrangea Endless Summer  
Bloomstruck  
Summer Crush  
The Original

Juniperus procumbens 'Nana' Dwarf Garden Juniper  
 Juniperus squamata 'Blue Star' 'Blue Star' Juniper  
 Ilex glabra All varieties Inkberry All Varieties

## Zone 4 Shrubs

<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
Ilex verticillata All varieties	Winterberry All Varieties
Magnolia loeb. 'Leonard Messel'	'Leonard Messel' Magnolia
Magnolia x lili. Hybrids	Little Girl Series Magnolias
Philadelphus All varieties	Mockorange All Varieties
Rhododendron Aglo	Aglo Rhododendron
Rhododendron Midnight Ruby	Midnight Ruby Rhododendron
Rhododendron PJM	PJM Rhododendron
Rhododendron Purple Gem	Purple Gem Rhododendron
Sambucus nigra	Black Elderberry Black Lace Instant Karma
Taxus media All varieties	Yews Densiformis Majestic
Weigela florida All varieties	Weigela Spilled Wine Very Fine Wine Wine & Roses

## Zone 4 Vines

<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
Wisteria macr. Summer Cascade	Summer Cascade Wisteria
Parthenocissus quin. Red Wall	Red Wall Virginia Creeper
Parthenocissus tricuspidata	Boston Ivy

## Zone 4 Roses

Easy Elegance (Shrub)  
 Champagne Wishes  
 Como Park  
 Coral Cove  
 Kashmir  
 Music Box  
 Paint the Town  
 Drift Roses (Shrub)  
 Miracle on the Hudson (Shrub)

## Zone 4 Perennials

<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
Allium Perennial hybrids	Allium Perennial Medusa Millenium Serendipity
Astilbe x arendsii Hybrids All	Arendsii Hybrid Astilbies All
Astilbe chinensis All Varieties	Astilbe Chinese All Varieties
Astilbe japonica All Varieties	Astilbe Japanese All Varieties
Athyrium fili. All Varieties	Lady Fern All Varieties
Baptisia All Varieties	False Indigo All Varieties
Coreopsis grandiflora	Tickseed Moonbeam Zagreb
Dianthus Many Varieties	Pinks Many Varieties Paint The Town Series Fruit Punch Series
Echinacea Hybrids Most Varieties	Hybrid Coneflowers
Heliopsis helia. All Varieties	False Sunflower All Varieties
Heuchera species & Hybrids All	Coral Bells
Hibiscus mosc. Summerific Series	Perennial Hibiscus
Lavandula x inter. Phenomenal	Lavender Phenomenal
Lupinus	Lupine All Varieties
Perovskia atrip. All Varieties	Russian Sage All Varieties
Rudbeckia x 'Little Gold Star'	'Little Gold Star' Black-eyed Susan
Sedum Sunsparkler Series	Sunsparkler Series Sedum
Veronica spicata All Varieties	Speedwell All Varieties

## Zone 4 Grasses

<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
Carex pensylvanica	Pennsylvania Sedge
Calamagrostis acuti. All Varieties	Feather Reed Grass
Festuca glauca	Blue Fescue Beyond Blue Elijah Blue
Juncus effusus 'Big Twister'	Corkscrew Rush
Panicum virgatum All Varieties	Switch Grass All Varieties