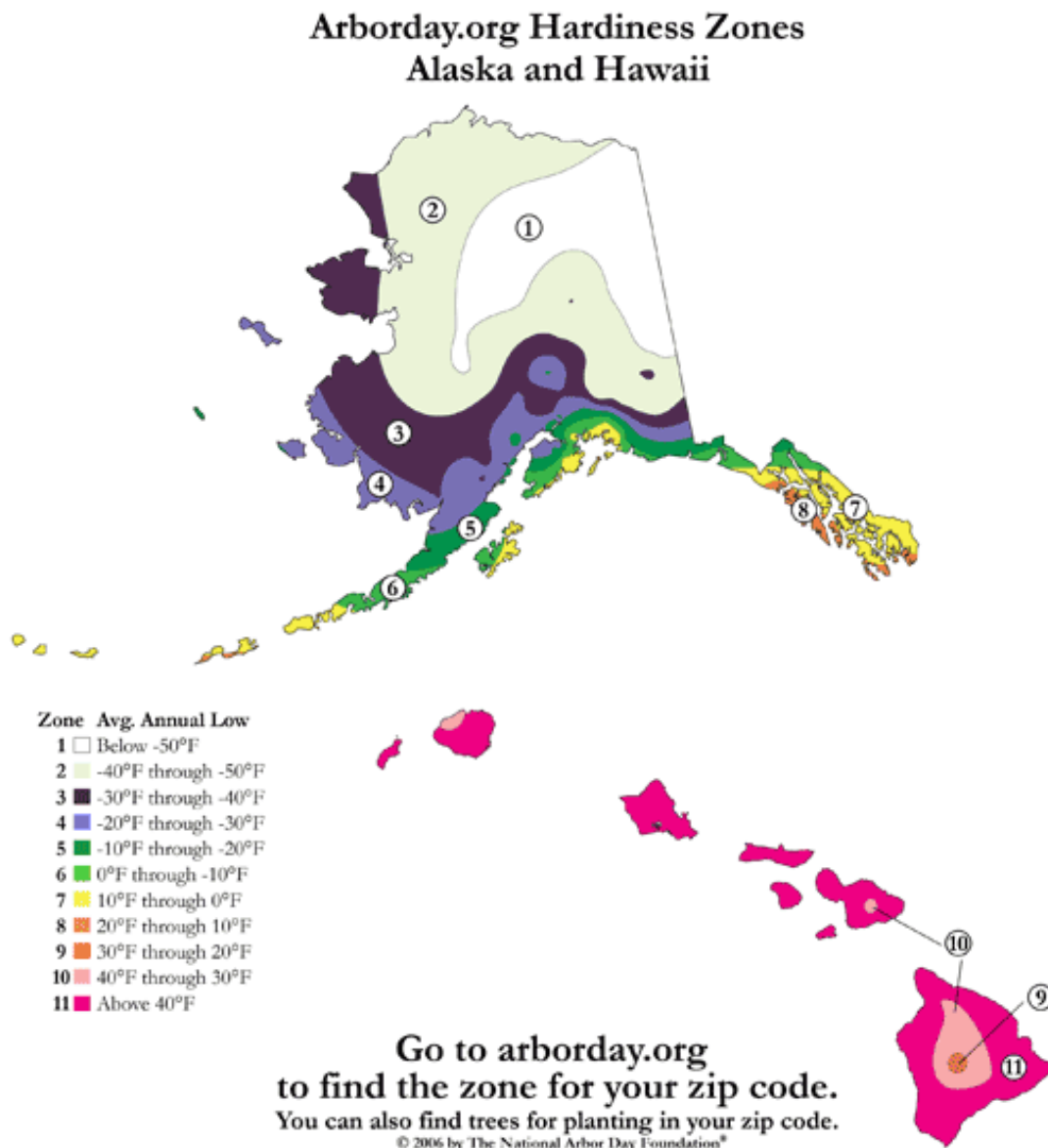


# Hardiness Zone Map reflects warmer climate

The United States is heating up, and many tree species are stressing out. To help folks adapt to the climate changes and select the right trees to plant, the National Arbor Day Foundation released a Hardiness Zone Map that separates the country into 10 different temperature zones.

Many areas have warmed since the last USDA hardiness zone map in 1990. Much of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, for example, have shifted from Zone 5 to a warmer Zone 6, and some areas jumped two full zones.



The Foundation developed the new zones based on the last 15 years of data collected from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's 5,000 cooperative stations across the nation. Researchers then categorized these zones according to average annual low temperatures in 10-degree increments. For instance, the average low temperature in zone 3 is -40 to -30 degrees Fahrenheit, while the average low temperature in zone 10 is +30 to +40 degrees Fahrenheit. Alaska ranges from Zone 1 through Zone 8.

The new map further confirms global warming, but tree planting is a positive action to help reverse this trend. Go to [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org), click on the Hardiness Zone link and enter your zip code to determine your hardiness zone and best trees to plant.

"Of course, existing trees should continue to be cared for," said Woody Nelson from the Arbor Day Foundation. "Certain species may be more vulnerable to stress with the current warmer climate, but they will continue to provide environmental and economic benefits as they grow. It's just a good idea to consider more tree species diversity for the future."

## **Planting trees saves utility bill and counteracts global warming**

Trees counteract global warming in multiple ways. As they grow, trees remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, storing the carbon and releasing oxygen. A single tree can remove more than a ton of CO<sub>2</sub>, one of the largest causes of warming, over its lifetime.

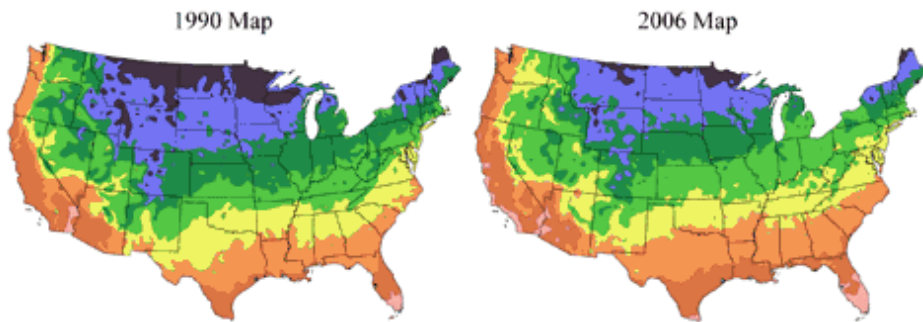
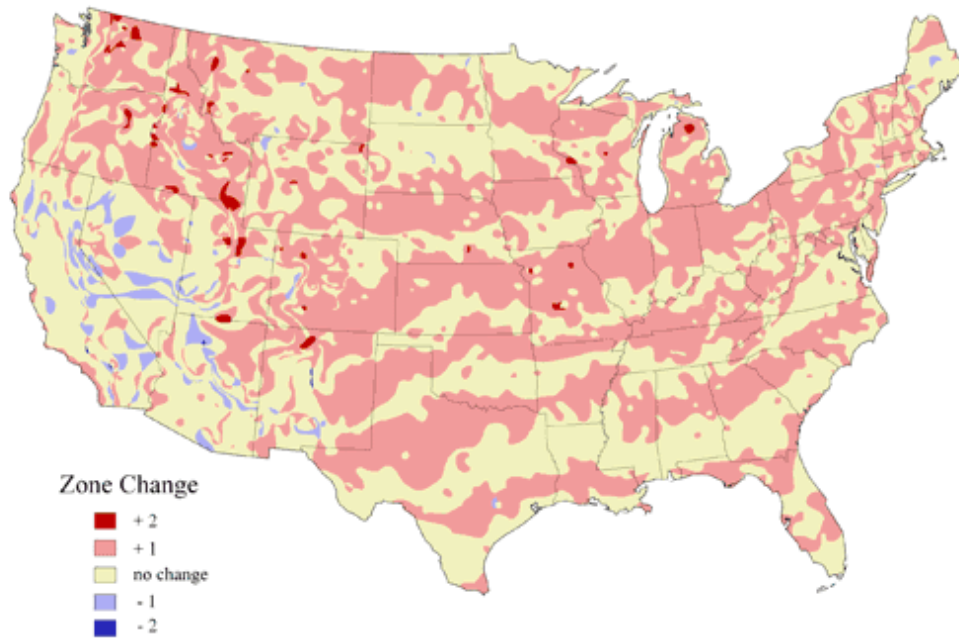
Other advantages include:

- Tree shade reduces summer air conditioning needs. According to the USDA, the cooling effect of a healthy tree equals 10 room-size air-conditioners operating 20 hours a day.
- Trees also reduce the "heat-island" effect in urban areas, where summer temperatures are generally warmer than the surrounding countryside. According to the U.S. Forest Service, 50 million strategically placed shade trees could eliminate the need for seven 100-megawatt power plants.
- Trees around homes and in cities slow cold winter winds, reducing the need for winter heating. This fuel-consumption relief also reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from burning fossil fuels.

Find detailed information about the best trees for planting throughout the country, the value of trees and the latest warmer hardiness zones at [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).

*This information courtesy The National Arbor Day Foundation, a nonprofit organization of nearly one million members, with a mission to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees.*

**Differences between 1990 USDA hardiness zones and 2006 arborday.org hardiness zones reflect warmer climate**



After USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map, USDA Miscellaneous Publication No. 1475, Issued January 1990

National Arbor Day Foundation Plant Hardiness Zone Map published in 2006.

