

5 REASONS
YARD MAINTENANCE
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2006 arborday.org Hardiness Zones Map

What's Your Zone?

When purchasing plants and trees you may have noticed the tag lists specific hardiness zones in which the plant should thrive. According to The National Arbor Day Foundation, the United States and Canada are divided into 11 areas based on 10 degree Fahrenheit changes in the average annual minimum temperature. Just remember that other variations, including soil condition, wind and rainfall, can affect the vitality of trees and plants, so hardiness zone alone is not indicative of plant survival.

Zone	Avg. Annual Low
2	-40°F through -50°F
3	-30°F through -40°F
4	-20°F through -30°F
5	-10°F through -20°F
6	0°F through -10°F
7	10°F through 0°F
8	20°F through 10°F
9	30°F through 20°F
10	40°F through 30°F

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Keep Your Clippings

Each summer, homeowners across the country discard a valuable resource that can help their lawns in a number of ways. Under the false impression that grass clippings cause thatch, many homeowners discard their clippings in garbage bags they tote curbside. However, the best thing to do with clippings is to allow them to fall back to the turf. When allowing clippings to fall back, up to 25 percent of the fertilizer nutrients are returned to the turf. Grass clippings are 85 to 90 percent water and nutrients,

including nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. For clippings to be effective, mowing the lawn regularly and not letting the grass get too high is essential. A good tool to use is a mulching mower, which boasts unique decks and blades that actually suspend clippings, allowing them to be cut into small pieces, perfect for falling back to the turf. Mulching mowers, however, are not effective in tall or wet grass, giving homeowners another reason to keep their grass from getting too tall between cuts.

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 - Hemlock
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- **Bagged Top Soil**
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