

3.1.2 Plant hardiness zone comparison chart

There is no direct conversion between the systems but the chart below provides a rough comparison.

Temperature °C	USDA Zone	RHS Zone
-20 and below	6	H7 Very hardy in the severest European continental climates including exposed upland locations in the UK.
-20 to -15	7	H6 Hardy - very cold winter across the UK and northern Europe. Many plants grown in containers will be damaged unless given protection.
Temperature °C	USDA Zone	RHS Zone
-15 to -10	7b	H5 Hardy - cold winter in most places throughout the UK even in severe winters. May not withstand open/exposed sites or central/northern locations. Many evergreens suffer foliage damage, and plants in pots will be at increased risk.
-10 to -5	8	H4 Hardy - average winter through most of the UK apart from inland valleys, at altitude and central/northerly locations. May suffer foliage damage and stem dieback in harsh winters in cold gardens. Some normally hardy plants may die in long, wet winters in heavy or poorly drained soil. Plants in pots are more vulnerable.
-5 to 1	9	H3 Half-hardy in unheated glasshouse / mild winters in coastal/mild areas, except in hard winters and at risk from sudden (early) frosts. May be hardy elsewhere with wall shelter or good microclimate. Likely to be damaged or killed in cold winters, particularly with no snow cover or if potted.
1 to 5	10	H2 Tender - cool or frost free glasshouse. Tolerant of low temperatures, but will not survive being frozen. Except in frost-free inner-city areas or coastal extremities, requires glasshouse conditions in winter, but can be grown outdoors once risk of frost is over.

5 to 10	11	H1C Heated glasshouse - warm temperate. Can be grown outdoors in summer throughout most of the UK while daytime temperatures are high enough to promote growth.
10 to 15	12	H1B Heated glasshouse - subtropical. Can be grown outdoors in summer in warm, sunny and sheltered locations (such as city-centre areas), but will generally perform better under glass or as a house plant.
15 and over	12b	H1A Heated glasshouse - tropical. Needs to be grown under glass or as a house plant all year.

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