



New Plant Hardiness Zone Maps.

What do they really tell us, and where can we find more information.*

What do the maps really tell us?

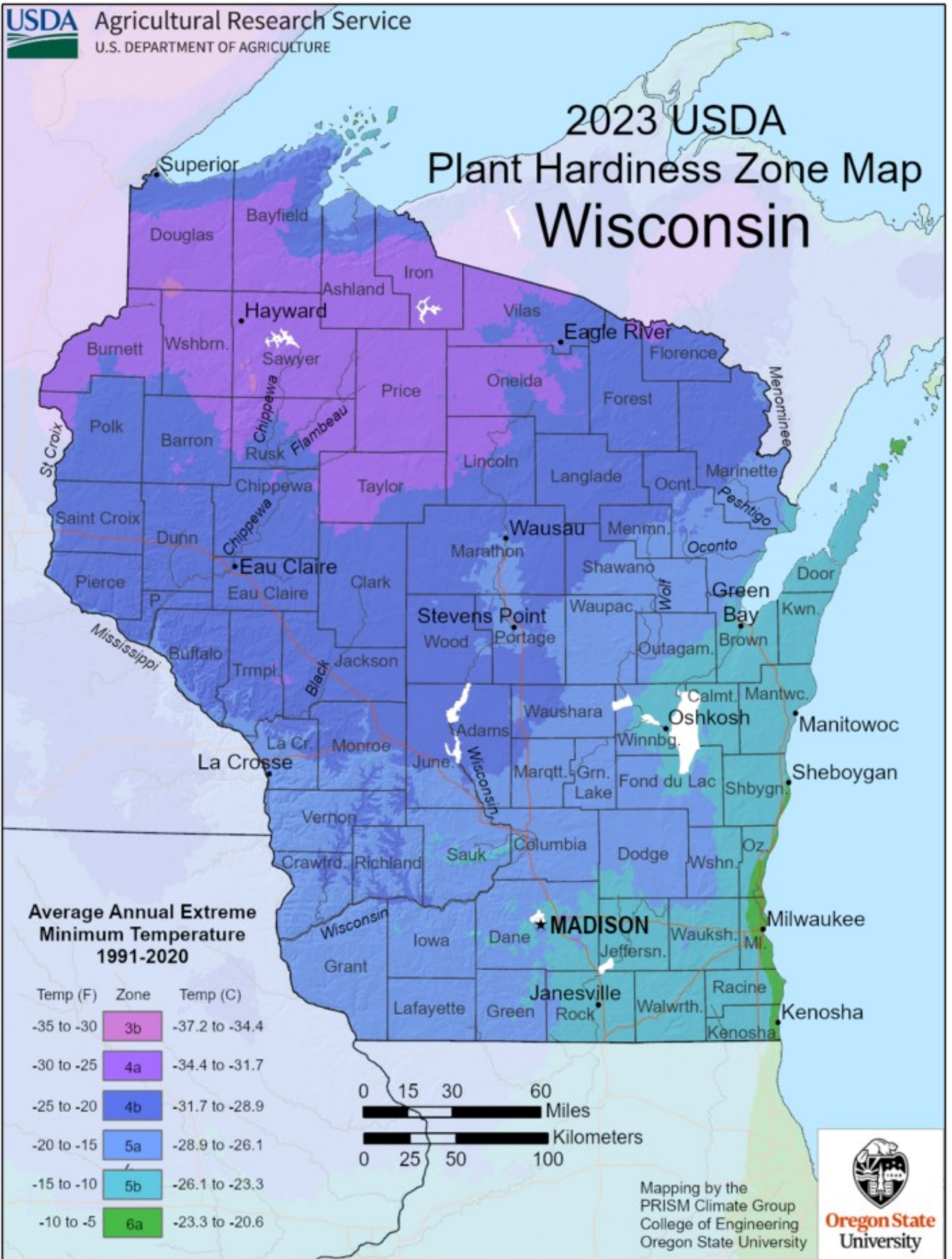
- WSAW interview with Janell Wehr ~ bit.ly/3yzs2wa
 - Zone 3 is practically gone except for some small spots in northern Wisconsin. Wisconsin gained Zone 6 in the southern part, and then Wausau and Stevens Point turned into Zone 5a. These changes don't necessarily mean Wisconsin is becoming warmer, it means experts have more data and are seeing a broader picture.
 - "They increased the data points by 68% from the 2012 map to the 2023 map, so now we're seeing a lot more granular data. A lot more information is coming through because of that things like topography are being reflected.
 - "If you've had your eye on a coneflower that's a Zone 5 and you weren't sure whether or not it would be worth it, you can go ahead and experiment and try to put some of those plants in. I would still suggest for the majority of plants though that we still lean into the Zones 4 or even 3 plants."
- WPR ~ What the new plant hardiness zones mean for Wisconsin gardeners ~ bit.ly/3wRweqP
 - Despite the changes, experts say Wisconsin gardeners shouldn't rush to make major changes to their plant selections, as the maps are based on average temperatures rather than extreme weather events.
- Kansas State Research & Education ~ Hardiness Zones Can be Confusing ~ bit.ly/4bTqgEy
 - Cold hardiness maps only show half the picture. Keep in mind that the cold hardiness maps are only for determining winter survival.
- Additional note from a discussion with Janell. She described the impact of the increased datapoints by likening the detail of the old map to taking a photo with an old flip-style cell phone compared to taking the same photo today with a new smart-phone.

Where can we get more information?

- USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map / Map Creation Page ~ bit.ly/3yD8V4p
- NPR Interactive Website ~ bit.ly/3KmrseF
- UW-Madison Division of Extension Horticulture ~ bit.ly/4bUCQU4
- Wisconsin DNR Forestry News ~ bit.ly/3yGoPv3
- University of Minnesota Extension ~ bit.ly/44YoBLT

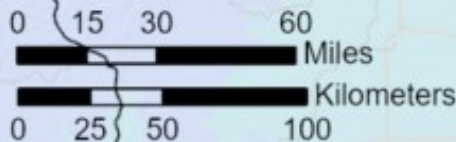
*This information sheet was prepared by Denise Rocha, Portage County Lead Extension Specialist and Certified Master Gardener, as requested by the Portage County Master Gardeners for clarification and distribution. It contains information obtained from interviews with Janell Wehr, Wood & Marathon County Extension Horticulture Educator. It also contains information compiled from multiple sources which are credited with links to the information on the original websites. This document has been reviewed by Janell Wehr, as well as Ken Schroeder, Portage County Agricultural Educator. Last updated 6/3/24.

2023 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map Wisconsin



**Average Annual Extreme
Minimum Temperature
1991-2020**

Temp (F)	Zone	Temp (C)
-35 to -30	3b	-37.2 to -34.4
-30 to -25	4a	-34.4 to -31.7
-25 to -20	4b	-31.7 to -28.9
-20 to -15	5a	-28.9 to -26.1
-15 to -10	5b	-26.1 to -23.3
-10 to -5	6a	-23.3 to -20.6



Mapping by the
PRISM Climate Group
College of Engineering
Oregon State University

