

Zoning Area Here in Sparks

Let's talk zoning area here in Sparks. First of all what is a planting zone and why do we use our zone as a guide to our plants. Gardeners need a way to compare their garden climates with the climate where a plant is known to grow well. That's why climate zone maps were created. Zone maps are tools that show where various permanent landscape plants can adapt. If you want a shrub, perennial, or tree to survive and grow year after year, the plant must tolerate year-round conditions in your area, such as the lowest and highest temperatures and the amount and distribution of rainfall.

Most states have multiple hardiness zones because of minor climate differences based on location, landscape, etc. If you're unsure exactly what zone your property is in, the [USDA plant hardiness zone map](#) lets you search your ZIP code to find out your zone. Zip code 89434 is:

Zone: 7b (According to the new 2023 map)

Zone: 7a (According to the 2012 map)

Zone: 5b (According to the older 1990 map)

What is the difference between Zone 7a and 7b? Zone 7a has an average minimum temperature of 0 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit, while Zone 7b has an average minimum temperature of 5 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit; meaning Zone 7b is slightly warmer than Zone 7a. The last frost date is around April 15, and the first frost date is around November 15.

So, if you are questioning whether a flowering plant or vegetable will grow here, google your zone, ask a nursery, ask a friend that has lived here for awhile but if you really want a certain plant, try it! Here is an example of why to try. Common misperception is that it's not possible to grow citrus trees in this zone. However, there are several varieties that are zone 7 and even Zone 8 hardy.