

# UCCE El Dorado County Master Gardeners

This handout provides information on climate zones, as requested at the Edible Landscape Workshop on January 26, 2013.

## Information on Climate Zones

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### SUNSET ZONES

([www.sunset.com/garden/climate-zones/](http://www.sunset.com/garden/climate-zones/))

The Sunset zones, popularized and researched by Sunset Magazine, are derived from climate zones developed by the University of California Cooperative Extension. Sunset zones are based on a combination of extremes and averages of minimum, maximum, and mean temperature, rainfall, humidity, and the length of the growing season.

### USDA ZONES

([www.planthardiness.ars.usda.gov](http://www.planthardiness.ars.usda.gov))

USDA zones are more widely used. These zones are based on the average minimum temperature in a given region.

### CONVERSION CHART

To the right is a general conversion chart of USDA zones. (Note that the Sunset equivalent zones are rough approximations and do not correlate completely with the USDA zones.)

*Note - According to the Sunset zones, most of the West Slope of El Dorado County is in Sunset Zone 7 or 9 and USDA Zone 8a a8 or 8b. Please refer to the Sunset ([www.sunset.com](http://www.sunset.com)) and USDA websites for maps that will help you to identify the correct zone for your location.*

**USDA/ Sunset Climate Zone Conversion Chart**

USDA Zone	Temp. (F)	Temp. (C)	Sunset Equiv.
1	below -50F		A1
2a	-50 to -45F		A1
2b	-45 to -40F		A1
3a	-40 to -35F		A1
3b	-35 to -30F		A1
4a	-30 to -25F		A1
4b	-25 to -20F		A1
5a	-20 to -15F		1A, 1B, A2
5b	-15 to -10F		1-2
6a	-10 to -5F		1-3
6b	-5 to 0F		1-3
7a	0 to 5F		6
7b	5 to 10F	-14.9 to -12.3C	6-7
8a	10 to 15F	-12.2 to -9.5C	4, 6-9
8b	15 to 20F	-9.4 to -6.7C	4-5, 7-9
9a	20 to 25F	-6.6 to -3.9C	16
9b	25 to 30F	-3.8 to -1.2C	16-22
10a	30 to 35F	-1.1 to 1.6C	17-23, 26
10b	35 to 40F	1.7 to 4.4C	23-24, 26
11	above 40F	above 4.5C	25, H1, H2