

PERENNIAL CARE

zone 2 and 3 hardy perennials and shrubs

Depending on your location, the Twin Cities area is considered Zone 5a (-20F to -15F) or Zone 4b (-25F to -20F). Zone 3 begins in the northern 1/3 of MN and continues to the Canadian border. At Tonkadale we stock plants that are Zone 4 or hardier, down to Zone 2. Zone 3 and Zone 2 hardy plants are especially good for exposed areas, and to ensure plants are ready for winter with little preparation. These lists are based off the latest guidance from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (February 2024) and are subject to change. Visit mda.state.mn.us for more information.

Zone 3 (-40F to -30F Annual Minimum Temperature)

Full Sun (6+ hours direct sun)

Acer saccharum (Sugar Maple)*

Achillea 'Moonshine, Strawberry Seduction'
(Yarrow)

Alchemilla 'Gold Strike' (Lady's Mantle)

Amelanchier 'Autumn Brilliance' (Serviceberry)*

Andropogon (Big Bluestem)

Artemisia 'Silver Mound'

Arctostaphylos 'Massachusetts' (Kinnikinnick)*

Aronia (Black Chokeberry)*

Asclepias (Milkweed/Butterfly Weed)

Baptisia (Blue False Indigo)

Betula 'Dakota Pinnacle, Parkland Pillar' (Birch)*

Bouteloua (Side Oats Grama)

Calamagrostis 'Karl Foerster'

Cornus 'Ivory Halo' (Dogwood)*

Chrysanthemum Mammoth Series (Hardy Mum)

Coreopsis 'Moonbeam' (Tickseed)

Dianthus 'Arctic Fire' (Pinks)

Echinacea 'Magnus, PowWow Series' (Coneflower)

Festuca 'Elijah Blue' (Fescue)

Gaillardia 'Arizona Red' (Blanket Flower)

Geum triflorum (Prairie Smoke)

Hemerocallis [many inc. 'Stella d'Oro'] (Daylily)

Hydrangea paniculata (Panicle Hydrangea)*

Iris versicolor (Northern Blue Flag Iris)

Juniperus 'Star Power®' (Upright Juniper)*

Liatis 'Floristan White/Violet, Kobold'
(Blazing Star)

Lilium 'Lily Looks' Series (Asiatic Lily)

Lobelia (Cardinal Flower/Great Blue)

Nepeta 'Walker's Low' (Catmint)

Paeonia 'Sarah Bernhardt, Kansas, Duchesse de Nemours' (Peony)

Panicum (Switchgrass)

Penstemon 'Dark Towers, Husker Red'
(Beardtongue)

Phlox paniculata 'Flame Series, Laura'

Rosa 'Campfire, William Baffin,
Winnipeg Parks' (Rose)*

Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low' (Fragrant Sumac)*

Rudbeckia 'Goldsturm' (Black-Eyed Susan)

Salix purpurea 'Nana' (Dwarf Arctic Willow)*

Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Bluestem)

Sedum 'Angelina, Autumn Joy, Neon'

Sorghastrum (Yellow Prairie Grass)

Spiraea 'Renaissance' (Bridalwreath Spirea)*

Sporobolus (Prairie Dropseed)

Symphotrichum novae-angliae

(New England Aster)

Symphotrichum x dumosus 'Wood's Series'
(Bushy Aster)

Syringa meyeri (Dwarf Korean Lilac)*

Syringa 'Miss Kim' (Korean Lilac)*

Thuja occidentalis 'Holmstrup, Techny,
Degroot's Spire, North Pole' (Arborvitae)*

Vaccinium 'Northcountry, Northblue'
(Blueberry)*

Viburnum dentatum 'Blue Muffin'
(Arrowwood Viburnum)*

Viburnum opulus (Common
Snowball Viburnum)*

Note: Many of these plants will grow in part sun exposure but will bloom best in full sun.

Zone 3 (-40F to -30F Annual Minimum Temperature)

Part Sun/Shade (0-6 hours direct sun)

Anemone canadensis (Canada Anemone)
Aquilegia canadensis (Eastern Columbine)
Aralia cordata 'Sun King' (Golden Spikenard)
Arancus (Goatsbeard)
Asarum canadense (Wild Ginger)
Astilbe x arendsii 'Fanal'
Astilbe chinensis 'Mighty Chocolate Cherry,
Vision in Pink/Red/White'
Astilbe japonica 'Rheinland, 'Deutschland'
Bergenia 'Winterglow' (Pigsqueak)
Brunnera 'Jack Frost' (Siberian Bugloss)
Carex (Sedge)
Cornus alternifolia (Pagoda Dogwood)*
Chelone (Turtlehead)
Dicentra (Bleeding Heart)
Diervilla lonicera (Northern Bush
Honeysuckle)*

Eutrochium maculatum (Spotted Joe
Pye Weed)
Geranium maculatum (Wild Geranium)
Geranium sanguineum 'Max Frei'
(Bloody Cranesbill)
Heuchera 'Northern Exposure
Red/Amber/Black' (Coral Bells)
Hosta [most common varieties] (Plantain Lily)
Hydrangea arborescens
(Smooth Hydrangea)*
Polygonatum falcatum 'Variegatum'
(Variegated Solomon's Seal)
Pulmonaria (Lungwort)

Note: Many of these plants will grow in shady conditions but will bloom best in part sun.

Zone 2 (-50F to -40F Annual Minimum Temperature)

All Plants Full/Part Sun (4-6+ hours direct sun)

Antennaria neglecta (Field Pussytoes)
Artemisia stelleriana 'Silver Mound' (Wormwood)
Cornus stolonifera 'Arctic Fire' (Red/Yellow Twig Dogwood)*
Larix laricina (American Larch/Tamarack)*
Malus 'Pink Sparkles' (Crabapple)*
Phlox subulata 'Candy Stripe, Emerald Blue/Pink' (Creeping Phlox)
Physocarpus 'Amber Jubilee' (Ninebark)*
Picea glauca (White Spruce)*
Pinus mugo (Mugo Pine)*
Potentilla 'Pink Beauty, Mandarin Tango' (Cinquefoil)*
Salix discolor (Pussy Willow)*
Salix candida 'Iceberg Alley' (Sageleaf Willow)*
Sorbus decora (Showy Mountain Ash)*
Syringa vulgaris (Common Lilac)*
Syringa x prestoniae 'Pinktini' (Preston Lilac)*
Viburnum trilobum 'Bailey Compact' (American Cranberrybush)*

*Woody tree or shrub



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USDA hardiness zone.