

# **HARDINESS RATINGS**

**BEGINNERS GUIDE TO GARDENING**



# WHAT ARE THEY?

As a beginner gardener, it's important to understand the RHS hardiness ratings. These ratings provide information about the level of cold a plant can tolerate, which is important to know when selecting plants for your garden.

When selecting plants for your garden, be sure to choose ones that are suitable for your climate and hardiness zone. This will help ensure that your plants thrive and grow well in your garden.

**It's important to note that hardiness ratings are only a guide and other factors such as soil type, exposure, and microclimate can also affect a plant's ability to survive cold temperatures.**



# WHAT ARE THE HARDINESS RATINGS?

## **H1a**

This hardiness rating is for plants, typically houseplants, that need to be grown in a heated glasshouse or tropical climate that is warmer than 15°C.

## **H1b**

These plants like to be grown between 10 and 15°C. They can be grown outdoors in the summer in a sheltered and sunny location, but often perform better as a houseplant or under glass all year round.

## **H1c**

These can be grown outdoors in the summer when daytime temperatures are high enough to encourage growth, at temperatures between 5 and 10°C.

## **H2**

Tolerant of low temperatures between 1 and 5°C, but will not survive being frozen. They require growing in a glasshouse until frost risks have passed.

## **H3**

These are hardy in coastal and mild areas, except in harsh winters and areas that are at risk of an early frost. Best placed in an unheated glasshouse when there are risks of frost or snow. These can be grown between -5 and 1°C.

# WHAT ARE THE HARDINESS RATINGS?

## **H4**

Hardy between -10 and -5°C, these are hardy in average winters. They may suffer foliage damage and stem dieback in harsh winters in cold areas at high altitudes. Plants in pots are also more vulnerable so try to protect them over winter where possible.

## **H5**

Hardy throughout most of the UK, they can survive temperatures between -15 and -10°C. However, they may not withstand open or exposed areas. Many evergreens may suffer foliage damage and potted plants are also at risk of damage.

## **H6**

Hardy throughout most of the UK, these plants can withstand temperatures between -20 and -15°C. But potted plants are still at risk of damage if not given adequate protection.

## **H7**

Hardy in the severest of winters, these plants can survive temperatures below -20°C.