

# Climate change results in projected shifts for plant hardiness zones

By KYM POKORNY  
For The Observer

CORVALLIS — You visit the nursery, pick out a primo plant, come home, put it in the ground and wait for it to become a beautiful tree, shrub or perennial. Then spring arrives and it's dead or floundering.

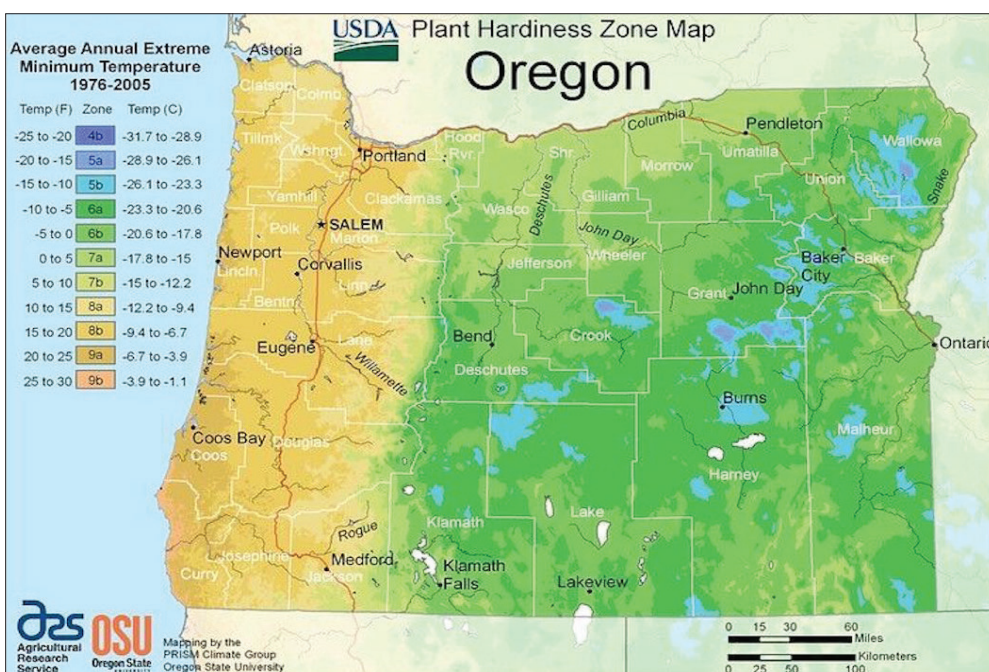
What happened?

In some cases, cold temperatures are the culprit. It's a matter of right plant, right place, said Nicole Sanchez, Oregon State University Extension horticulturist. Plants survive to a certain low temperature, a characteristic they developed through evolution in their native habitat. You need to know about hardiness zones to be assured your plants will avoid cold-related death. Plants bought at nurseries should have the hardiness zone on the label.

The zones are determined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, working with Oregon State University's PRISM Climate Group, and based on a 30-year period of averaged minimum low temperatures. The latest hardiness map came out in 2012 and is from data collected during the years 1976-2005. Zones are ranked from 1 (-60 degrees) to 13 (70 degrees), though the extremes are rare. To find yours, go to [www.planthardiness.ars.usda.gov](http://www.planthardiness.ars.usda.gov) and put in your ZIP code.

Oregon's hardiness zones range from 6a (-20 to -15) to 8b (15 to 20), with pockets of 5b (-15 to -10) in Eastern Oregon. The map doesn't reflect the coldest it has ever been or ever will be at a specific location, but simply the average lowest winter temperature for the location over a specified time.

But with climate change, the zones are shifting,



This Oregon zone hardiness map for plants was created at Oregon State University and came out in 2012. Shifts in zones due to climate change continue across the states.

Sanchez said. For instance, the 2012 map zones changed in many areas by 5 degrees — or a half-zone warmer — than the previous map. Already, there's talk of the Portland area moving from zone 8b to 9a, which has a low of 20-25 degrees.

"We won't know the specifics about zones changing until we have another 30 years of data to go on, but that doesn't mean we wait until 2035," Sanchez said. "They may use an earlier time period. Then we can look and see if there are long-term changes that would be reflected in new zones for particular areas. So, we wait and see."

"I always hear people say, 'This is the warmest spring ever' or 'I've never seen a summer so hot.' Usually, they're wrong. Weather is a short-term phenomenon and climate is a long-term pattern."

The map is a guide, not an absolute document. There can be winters when lows

dip below your zone minimum, she said. Nature can throw a curve ball; nothing is guaranteed. For now, gardeners should base their plant choices on the current map.

What happens in your garden could very well be different than your neighbor because of what are called microclimates. A microclimate can have an effect similar to moving to a colder or warmer zone. They can be influenced by structures like the orientation of your house to the sun. South will be warmer than north, west warmer than east.

Other microclimates may be related to slope: cold air pools at the bottom and the high points are cold, too, because of wind and exposure. So, the middle of a slope is the sweet spot for borderline hardy plants. Microclimates can be created with rock walls and mulches, buildings and fences, and windbreaks created with plants.

"I'm in zone 6," Sanchez said. "If I wanted to plant dahlias, which are zone 7 plants, I'd plant them on the south side with a gravel mulch that would store heat."

Zones are essential when choosing a plant. To be successful, plants must fit into your zone, which helps with selection. If you have five plants you like and only two are in your zone, it narrows down your selection. You can push the envelope; just be prepared to lose plants periodically.

"Some gardeners get a kick out of out of growing something that allegedly won't grow in their zone," Sanchez said. "Sometimes a plant will survive for several years because the weather doesn't get down to the minimum of your zone. But, then a really cold winter comes along and zaps them. Be careful with woody plants like shrubs and trees. They are investments. You can pay \$350 for a tree or \$15 for a flat of impatiens."

# Oregon Gov. Brown signs bill replacing 'alien' in state laws

By JULIA SHUMWAY  
Oregon Capital Chronicle

SALEM — Oregon will get rid of all references to noncitizens as "aliens" in state documents by the summer of 2023 after Gov. Kate Brown signed a law.

The measure will remove statutory references to "aliens" beginning on Jan. 1 and require all state agencies to replace the word "alien" with "noncitizen" in their rules by July 1, 2023. It follows similar laws passed in California and Colorado in 2021.

A cursory review of Oregon statutes shows the word "alien" appears more than 100 times, mostly in reference to foreign insurance companies. But the word also is in laws about public pensions, concealed handgun licenses and hiring contractors.

The bill's sponsor, Democratic Sen. Kayse Jama of Portland, came to the U.S. as a Somali refugee in the 1990s. As a refugee, he was classified as an "alien" under state and national law.

"Referring to immigrants and refugees as 'aliens' is an outdated, dehumanizing practice that stems from xenophobia and allows individuals to express bigotry without using overt racist language," he said in a statement.

Jama said he hoped other states will follow Oregon's lead in removing the word from their laws.

The law is one of several pieces of pro-refugee legislation passed in recent years. Brown earlier this month appointed a director for a new state office that will support new immigrants and refugees. The Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement was created

by legislation sponsored by Jama in 2021.

In December, lawmakers also allocated \$18 million to help Afghan refugees who began relocating to the U.S. last fall after U.S. troops left the country. The state expects to be home to about 1,200 Afghan refugees by September.

President Joe Biden said the U.S. will take in about 100,000 Ukrainian refugees fleeing Russia's invasion of their homeland, and it's unknown how many will come to Oregon.

"In Oregon, we welcome immigrants and refugees from around the world, recognizing that these communities are a vital part of the fabric of Oregon's history, culture and economy," Brown said in a statement. "I am pleased we are making progress through efforts like the Welcoming Refugees Bill, the creation of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement and now, removing a dangerous label from our lexicon through SB 1560. Words matter, and I applaud Senator Jama and all Oregonians who worked to make this important change."

Brown is making her way through about 130 bills passed by the Legislature earlier this spring. She has until Monday, April 4, 30 days after the legislative session ended, to sign or veto measures or allow them to become law without her signature.

So far, Brown has not vetoed any bills. She has yet to take up some of the most high-profile measures, including a proposal to phase in overtime pay for farmworkers and hundreds of millions in new state spending on infrastructure, housing and education.

# Preliminary report shows no spike in recidivism for prisoners released early

By CONRAD WILSON  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

SALEM — A preliminary report released this month by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission found some people released early from prison because of the coronavirus pandemic were not more likely to commit crimes.

Gov. Kate Brown commuted the sentences of 963 people during the COVID-19 pandemic between July 2020 and October 2021. The majority were considered medically vulnerable or near the end of their sentences.

The Criminal Justice Commission, a nonpartisan state agency, looked at the first 266 people granted a release between July and November of 2020.

The agency found 18% were arrested within one year of their commutation, 8%

were convicted of a new crime and 2% were reincarcerated.

CJC executive director Ken Sanchagrin said those numbers are similar to figures from 2019 involving people granted release or parole.

This chart comes from a March 2022 report by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. It compares recidivism rates from people who got out of prison in 2019 with those who were released in 2020 after their sentence was commuted by Gov. Kate Brown.

"It doesn't appear that being let out early for these folks had any type of negative impact as far as higher rates of recidivism that we would normally expect," Sanchagrin told OPB.

Sanchagrin said his agency will issue another report sometime in the next year.

The report found of the commuted people who reof-

fended, 10 involved a crime against another person.

"Of these 10 individuals, the most common person crime was menacing, followed by recklessly endangering another person, assault in the fourth degree, and robbery in the second degree," the report states. "There was one arrest for assaulting a public safety officer and one arrest for robbery in the first degree."

The report also states one person who received a commutation was later convicted of and incarcerated for second degree manslaughter.

Brown has faced criticism, and a lawsuit, over the pandemic-related commutations. In January, two district attorneys in Oregon filed a complaint, alleging the governor went outside the bounds of her executive powers to issue the commutations.

**meyer LOGISTICS**

**NOW HIRING CDL Team Drivers**

## DRIVE WITH MEYER LOGISTICS

**\$116,905/Yr. Average Pay Per Driver**  
**\$7,500 Sign-On Bonus**



**\$0.77 - \$0.88 CPM**



**Average \$116,905 annual pay per driver**



**Dedicated runs/great home time**



**No Forced Dispatch**

### BENEFITS

- Average \$116,905 annual per driver
- \$0.77 - \$0.88 CPM
- \$7,500 Sign-on bonus
- Paid orientation and training
- Paid vacation
- Paid holidays
- Paid personal days
- Quarterly safety bonus
- Clean DOT inspection bonus
- Medical, dental, vision, disability, life insurance
- 401K with company match
- Health savings account
- Direct deposit
- Company pays all other trucking expenses - fuel, repairs, DEF, scales, tolls, hotel stay if needed, & more!



APPLY NOW

**(877) 859-0479**

[www.meyerlogisticsjobs.com](http://www.meyerlogisticsjobs.com)

**NOW HIRING!**

- Experienced Excavation and Underground Utilities
- Heavy Equipment Operators
- CDL Truck Drivers
- Laborers

**Competitive Wages, Health Insurance, IRA, sick leave**

**Apply in person today!**  
**4531 NW A Avenue, Pendleton**

**ANDERSON**  
ROD ANDERSON CONSTRUCTION, INC  
4531 NW 'A' AVENUE  
PENDLETON, OREGON 97801