

Notes from CPVGC Member & Master Gardener Jaclynn Peterson,
when asked by Kathy Dennis,
“In What plant hardiness zone is Castle Pines Village?”

The easy answer, and to play it safe, is Zone 3 or 4, especially when investing in trees & shrubs and for any plants placed on the north side of a structure.

The better answer is...it depends.

See attached “[...Plant Growth Factors...](#)” for detailed info. In summary, we are lucky here because we have lots of microclimates, and/or we can create them. For example, on the south facing side of a structure with rocks, no shade & some wind protection, we can get away with Zone 5 plants, and as long as we winter water and it doesn’t get horribly cold ([-35 °F in January 1963](#)), we can enjoy many more “perennial” varieties in our gardens.

I would also point out that “Zones” seem to vary. [USDA](#) says 4b goes down to -25F and PlantMaps lists 5a to -20F. It’s a little like playing the lottery and so if we don’t mind replacing those that give up during a cold winter, then we can incorporate Zone 5’s into our landscape, no problem. I have also attached an article on [Native Trees & Life Zones](#) because that is of importance as well, again especially when investing in trees.

One last thing to remind everyone is that when it comes to perennials in our gardens, we need to make sure they are on the [CPV approved plant list](#). If it’s an annual, it doesn’t need to be approved, but if it’s going to be in your landscape for a while, it should be approved. If it’s not, we run the risk of the DRC asking us to remove it. The list hasn’t been approved since 2008 and there are many Plant Select varieties that are not listed. It would be wonderful to get the Plant Select list added to the CPV list if at all possible.

80108 Castle Rock, Colorado **(Remember, Castle Pines is colder because of our elevation; 6600 feet at highest point)**

USDA Hardiness Zone:	Local Climate Data			
Zone 4b: -25F to -20F	Mon	Min F	Max F	Precip In.
PlantMaps Hardiness Zone:	Jan	14	44	.5
Zone 5a: -20F to -15F	Feb	17	47	.5
Days Where Temp Exceeds 86°F:	Mar	23	53	1.45
8 - 14 days	Apr	30	59	1.96
Ecoregion:	May	40	69	2.58
26i - Pine-Oak Woodlands	Jun	48	80	1.9
Freeze Data:	Jul	54	86	2.23
Average First Frost September 21 - 31	Aug	53	83	2.1
Average Last Frost: May 21 - 31	Sep	44	76	1.31
Current Drought Data:	Oct	33	65	1.04
Drought Conditions:	Nov	22	51	1.02
Palmer Drought Index:	Dec	15	45	.66
	Ann	33	63	17.28

I hope this helps to answer the easy, yet complex, question. Jak