

You Gotta Know When to Hold 'Em

Written by Sandra Educate
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Kenny Rogers isn't the only one who knows about gambling. We gardeners know a thing or two as well. We do it all the time.

If we rely on plant labels to tell what will grow here, we're gambling. If the label says good for Zone 8, don't ante up yet.

Most people are surprised to learn that Beaufort County and Seattle, Washington share the same 8b horticultural zone. That's because the zones are rated by cold days, and even though Seattle is pretty far north, warm maritime waters keep it from getting really cold. But their summers are cool and mild, so they can successfully grow plants like lilacs and peonies. We can't. Your best bet on zone 8 labeled plants is to check around before you buy. The Southern Living Garden Book is a good resource.

And here's where gambling comes in. Beaufort is right in the middle, so to speak. Other zones are pretty clear cut. Zones 9 and higher are sub-tropical and tropical. Zones 7 and lower are not. *Our* Zone 8 can lean towards either. And we're more often in Zone 9!

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<https://www.forestgardenschool.com/5516/usa-hardiness-zone-map.html>