The map divides North America into 11 separate zones, plus a and b sub-zones. The map is based on the average annual minimum winter temperature, divided into 10-degree F zones.
Selecting the Right Plants For your zone
Microclimates

**Microclimate** - The climate of a small area within a larger climate area.

For example, a backyard can have a climate different from that of the surrounding neighborhood, or there may be climate differences within a backyard. Microclimates can influence plant growth and should be considered in plant selection and care. Each site will be unique with different zones throughout it. Each side of a structure will be different. Wind direction, topography, snow drifting, and windbreaks can all affect the microclimates.

**What Are Three Things That Can Create Microclimates?** Topography, large bodies of water and urban areas are **three things that can create microclimates** on a large scale. Small-scale **microclimates** are **created** by items such as houses, fences, rocks, ponds, raised beds, soil types and paved surfaces.