

# Climate Resilient Food Gardening

**Sarah Mullin**

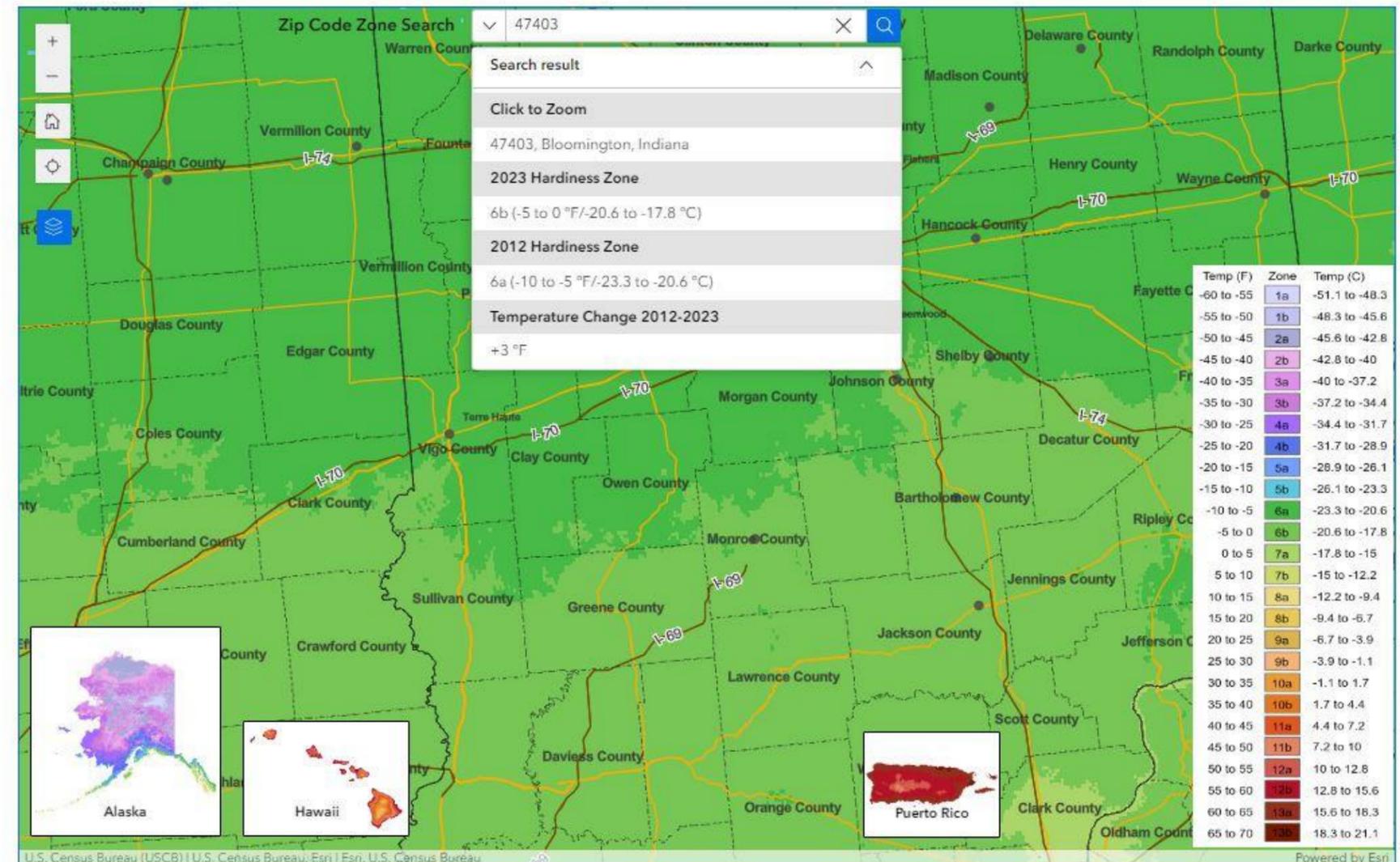
Community Gardening Specialist  
City of Bloomington, Parks & Recreation  
[mullins@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:mullins@bloomington.in.gov)



# Effects of the Climate Crisis on Food Gardens

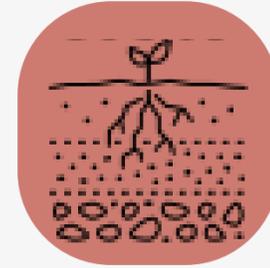
- Warmer Temperatures
- Pest & Disease Pressure
- Extreme Weather
- Crop Reduction or Failure
- Predictability

2023 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map



# What Can We Do to Make Our Gardens More Resilient?

Good growing practices are good for climate resilience!



**Prioritize soil health**



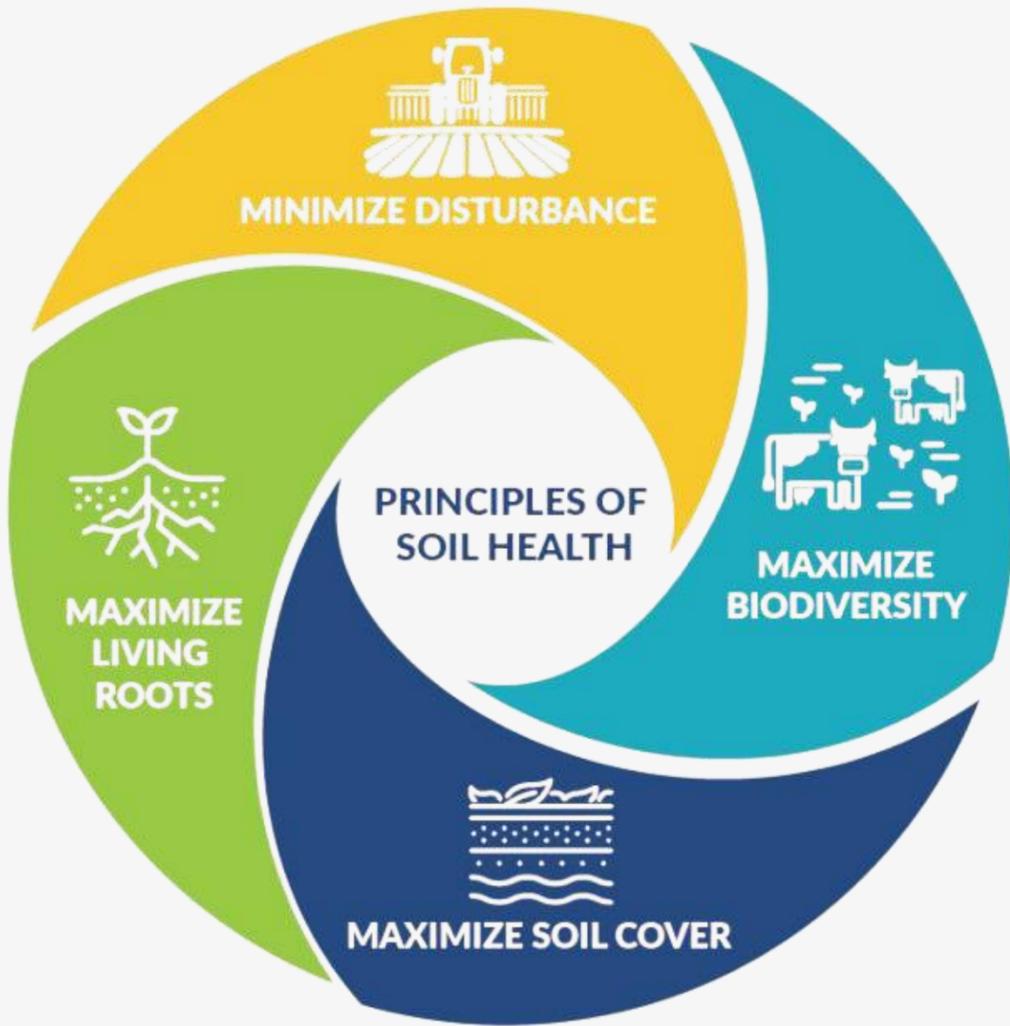
**Practice water conservation**



**Plant diverse gardens**



**Be prepared**



# Prioritize Soil Health

Healthy soils are the foundation of a healthy garden

- **Minimize disturbance**
- **Maximize biodiversity**
- **Maximize soil cover**
- **Maximize living roots**

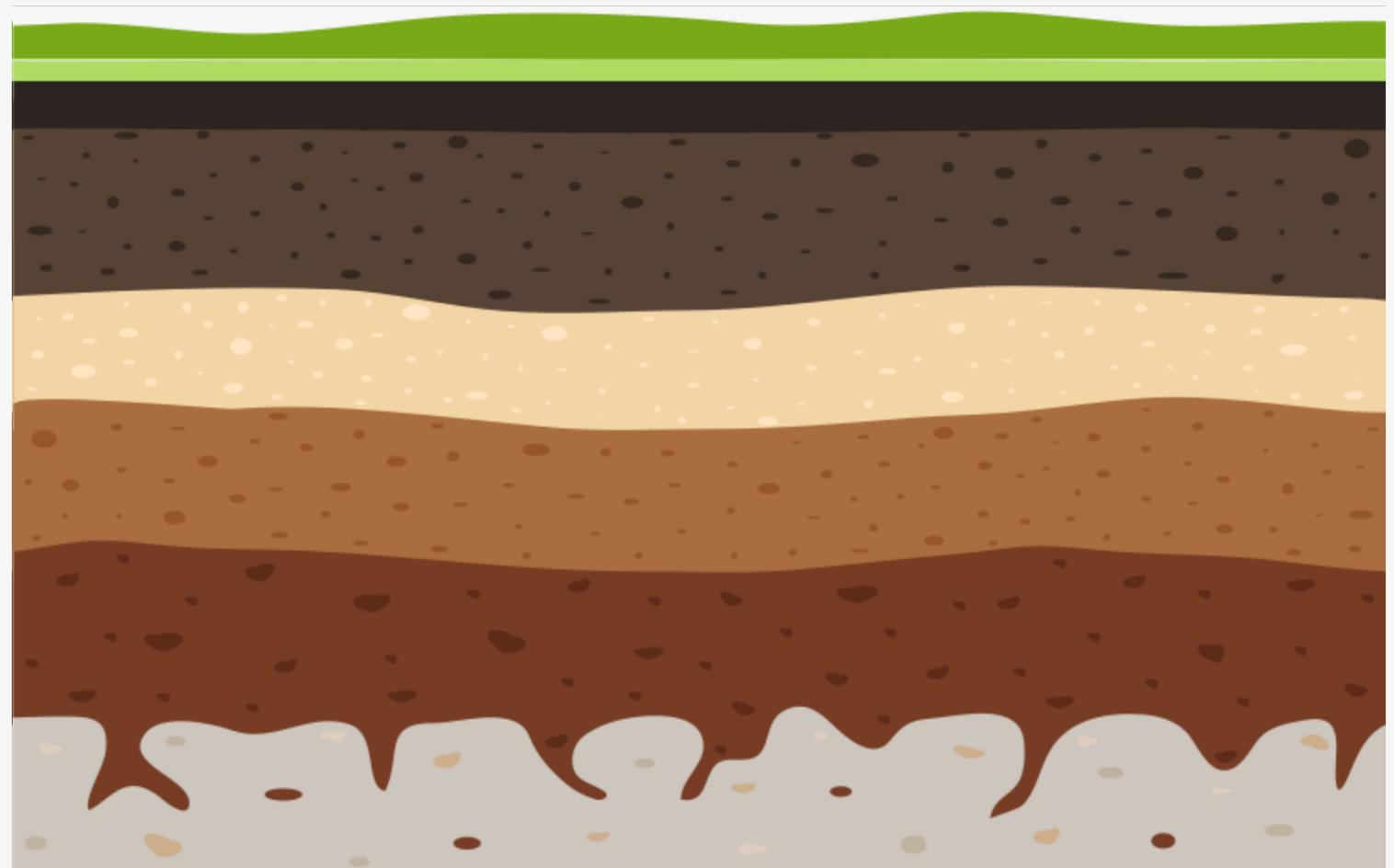
# Soil Health: Minimize Soil Disturbance

## Limit physical disturbance

- Use no or low-till methods in the home garden
  - use cover crops
  - plant into mulches
  - use permanent pathways

## Limit chemical disturbance

- Minimize farm inputs



# Soil Health: Maximize Biodiversity

- Plant diverse cover crops
- Practice crop rotation
- Support beneficial insects & pollinators
- Keep something growing most of the time



# Soil Health: Maximize Living Roots

- Reduce time that soil is fallow
- Succession planting
- Plant perennial crops
- Plant cover crops
- Use diverse crop rotations



# Soil Health: Maximize Soil Cover

- Plant cover crops
- Annual and perennial crops
- Intensive planting
- Use organic mulch





# Practice Water Conservation

- **Soil conservation practices**
- **Select heat tolerant varieties**
- **Intensive planting**
- **Minimal waste watering techniques**
  - **Monitor moisture levels**
  - **Use drip irrigation**
  - **Thorough watering less often**



# Plant Diverse Gardens

- **Diversity is your best crop insurance!**
  - **Crop varieties**
  - **Crop rotations**
  - **Succession planting**
  - **Cover crops**

# Be Prepared

## Helpful Tools to Manage Extreme Weather



shade cloth



insect netting  
& frost cloth



mounded raised beds



# Want to Learn More?

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**
  - **Extension Offices**
  - **Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)**
  - **USDA Midwest Climate Hub**
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