

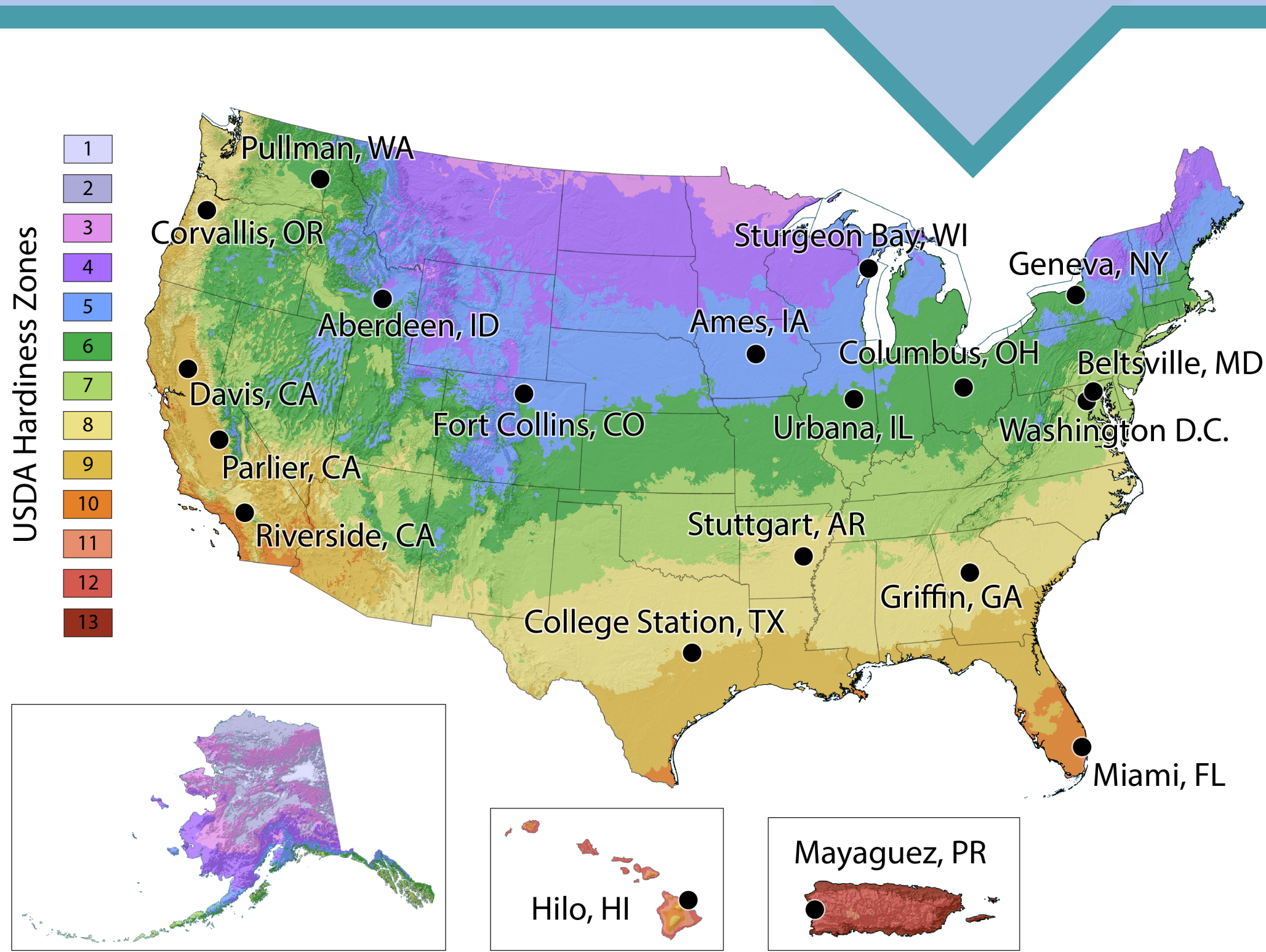
National Plant Germplasm System

CONSERVING CROP GENETIC RESOURCES IN THE U.S.

The National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS) is the network of USDA genebanks that safeguards our nation's precious plant germplasm (also termed genetic resources)—living material from which plants are grown.

NPGS conserves world-class collections of plant genetic resources

Collections include approximately 200 crops and their wild relatives. These are maintained across the country at 20+ locations suited to the biological and environmental needs of each crop.



Diverse collections are key to agricultural security

Genetic diversity can be used to improve crop quality, yield, pest and disease resistance, tolerance to environmental extremes, and more.

NPGS distributes living plant material to researchers and breeders working to develop and improve crops for a growing population and changing climate.

Plant germplasm is conserved in many forms

Curators must balance ease of maintenance, protection against loss, longevity, and accessibility.

They maintain living collections as:

- Plants growing in the field, greenhouse, screenhouse, or tissue culture
- Seeds or frozen tissue in cold storage



Watch a video overview of the NPGS



NPGS conserves the crops that sustain our everyday lives. These plants are essential to the future of global agriculture.

NPGS conserves germplasm from **16,000+** plant species

NPGS distributes **200,000+** items for research each year

NPGS safeguards **620,000+** unique kinds of germplasm



Food and Beverage

Most of NPGS's collections are food crops. This includes fruits and nuts, vegetables, grains, oilseeds, herbs, beverage crops, and more.



Fiber

Certain crops are cultivated for fiber, such as cotton, hemp, and flax.



Industrial and Medicinal

Some crops have industrial applications and are used in biofuels, lubricants, cosmetics, and medicines.



Feed

A variety of crops are used for feeding livestock such as cattle, pigs, and poultry.



Ornamental

Some plants are grown for their aesthetic interest and role in environmental quality.

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To learn more about plant genetic resources, visit GRIN-U.org

