

10a zone planting guide

10a zone planting guide is essential for gardeners and landscapers aiming to achieve optimal plant growth and garden success in USDA Hardiness Zone 10a. This zone, characterized by mild winters and warm summers, offers unique opportunities and challenges for selecting appropriate plants that thrive in these conditions. Understanding the climate specifics, soil types, and frost dates in zone 10a is crucial for planning a flourishing garden. This guide provides detailed information on the best trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables suitable for zone 10a, along with tips on soil preparation, watering, and pest management. Additionally, it highlights seasonal planting schedules to maximize growth and harvest potential. The following sections will cover climate overview, plant selection, soil and watering strategies, and seasonal planting advice for zone 10a gardeners.

- Understanding USDA Zone 10a Climate
- Best Trees and Shrubs for Zone 10a
- Ideal Flowers and Ornamentals for Zone 10a
- Vegetables and Herbs Suited for Zone 10a
- Soil Preparation and Watering Tips
- Seasonal Planting Schedule for Zone 10a
- Pest and Disease Management in Zone 10a

Understanding USDA Zone 10a Climate

USDA Hardiness Zone 10a is defined by an average annual minimum temperature ranging from 30 to 35 degrees Fahrenheit (-1.1 to 1.7 degrees Celsius). This zone typically covers coastal and southern regions of the United States, including parts of southern Florida, southern California, and Hawaii. The climate is characterized by mild winters with minimal frost risk and warm to hot summers. Due to these conditions, plants suitable for zone 10a must be able to tolerate occasional cool snaps but generally thrive in heat and humidity.

Rainfall patterns in zone 10a vary by location, but many areas experience seasonal dry spells. Gardeners must consider irrigation needs during dry months. Additionally, the length of the growing season in zone 10a is extensive, allowing for multiple planting cycles and a wide range of plant species.

Temperature and Frost Considerations

Frost events are rare and usually light in zone 10a, typically occurring only during brief cold

snaps in winter. However, even mild frost can damage sensitive plants, so selecting frost-tolerant species or providing protective measures during cold periods is important. The long frost-free period enables extended growing seasons for heat-loving crops.

Sunlight and Humidity

Zone 10a experiences abundant sunlight, with many areas receiving full sun for most of the day. Humidity levels vary but tend to be moderate to high, especially in coastal zones. These factors influence plant transpiration rates and water requirements, making appropriate watering practices crucial for plant health.

Best Trees and Shrubs for Zone 10a

Choosing trees and shrubs that are well-adapted to zone 10a ensures longevity and minimal maintenance. Plants in this category should tolerate warm temperatures, occasional drought, and mild frost. Native and drought-resistant species often perform well.

Recommended Trees

Several tree species thrive in zone 10a climates, offering shade, ornamental value, or fruit production. Popular choices include:

- **Avocado (*Persea americana*):** Thrives in warm climates, produces nutritious fruit, and provides dense shade.
- **Citrus Trees (*Citrus spp.*):** Oranges, lemons, limes, and mandarins flourish in zone 10a with proper care.
- **Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*):** An ornamental tree with striking purple flowers, well-suited to warm zones.
- **Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*):** Drought-tolerant fruit tree ideal for zone 10a gardens.
- **Olive Tree (*Olea europaea*):** Prefers warm, dry conditions and offers edible fruit and attractive foliage.

Recommended Shrubs

Shrubs add structure and color to zone 10a landscapes. Suitable shrubs include:

- **Lantana (*Lantana camara*):** Heat and drought-tolerant with vibrant flowers attracting pollinators.

- **Oleander (*Nerium oleander*):** Evergreen shrub with colorful blooms that withstands heat and poor soils.
- **Hibiscus (*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*):** Tropical shrub with large, showy flowers, thriving in warm climates.
- **Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*):** Ornamental shrub with distinctive tropical flowers.
- **Texas Sage (*Leucophyllum frutescens*):** Drought-tolerant shrub with silvery foliage and purple flowers.

Ideal Flowers and Ornamentals for Zone 10a

Flowering plants and ornamentals add aesthetic appeal and biodiversity to gardens in zone 10a. Selecting species that can handle the heat and occasional dryness is key to a vibrant garden.

Heat-Tolerant Annuals

Annual flowers provide seasonal color and can be rotated for continual bloom. Recommended annuals for zone 10a include:

- Marigold (*Tagetes* spp.)
- Zinnia (*Zinnia elegans*)
- Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)
- Portulaca (*Portulaca grandiflora*)
- Cosmos (*Cosmos bipinnatus*)

Perennial Flowers

Perennials offer long-term color and require less replanting. Suitable perennials for zone 10a are:

- Plumbago (*Plumbago auriculata*)
- Salvia (*Salvia* spp.)
- Agapanthus (*Agapanthus africanus*)

- Daylilies (*Hemerocallis* spp.)
- Bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea glabra*)

Vegetables and Herbs Suited for Zone 10a

The extended growing season in zone 10a allows for a diverse vegetable garden. Heat-loving and fast-growing vegetables perform well, alongside many herbs that thrive in warm conditions.

Vegetables for Warm Climates

Vegetables that tolerate heat and minimal frost should be prioritized. Examples include:

- Tomatoes (*Solanum lycopersicum*)
- Peppers (*Capsicum* spp.)
- Eggplants (*Solanum melongena*)
- Okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*)
- Sweet potatoes (*Ipomoea batatas*)

Herbs Suitable for Zone 10a

Many culinary and medicinal herbs flourish in zone 10a's climate. Recommended herbs include:

- Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*)
- Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)
- Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*)
- Oregano (*Origanum vulgare*)
- Mint (*Mentha* spp.)

Soil Preparation and Watering Tips

Proper soil preparation and watering practices are fundamental to successful planting in zone 10a. The warm climate can lead to rapid soil moisture evaporation, making soil health and irrigation management vital.

Soil Characteristics and Amendments

Soils in zone 10a vary widely but often lean towards sandy or loamy textures. Improving soil fertility and water retention can be achieved by adding organic matter such as compost or well-rotted manure. Testing soil pH is recommended; most plants prefer a slightly acidic to neutral pH (6.0 to 7.0). Adjustments with lime or sulfur may be necessary based on test results.

Watering Strategies

Efficient watering methods help conserve water and promote healthy root systems. Drip irrigation and soaker hoses are ideal for delivering water directly to the root zone, minimizing evaporation. Watering early in the morning or late in the evening reduces water loss. Deep, infrequent watering encourages deep root growth, enhancing drought tolerance.

Seasonal Planting Schedule for Zone 10a

Understanding the best times to plant various crops and ornamentals in zone 10a maximizes growth and yield. The long growing season allows for multiple planting windows throughout the year.

Spring Planting

Spring is an excellent time to start warm-season vegetables, herbs, and annual flowers. Plant frost-sensitive species such as tomatoes, peppers, and basil after the last expected frost date, which is generally very early or nonexistent in zone 10a.

Summer Planting

Heat-tolerant crops like okra, sweet potatoes, and certain herbs can be planted in summer. Adequate watering and mulching help reduce heat stress during peak temperatures.

Fall and Winter Planting

Mild winters enable cool-season vegetables such as lettuce, kale, spinach, and broccoli to be grown during fall and winter months. This period is also suitable for planting perennial flowers and shrubs.

Pest and Disease Management in Zone 10a

Warm climates in zone 10a can promote the proliferation of pests and diseases. Integrated pest management (IPM) strategies tailored to this zone help maintain plant health.

Common Pests

Gardeners should watch for pests such as aphids, whiteflies, spider mites, and caterpillars, which thrive in warm conditions. Regular monitoring and early intervention prevent infestations from becoming severe.

Disease Prevention

Fungal diseases can develop in humid conditions common to zone 10a. Promoting good air circulation, avoiding overhead watering, and removing diseased plant material are effective preventative measures. Selecting disease-resistant plant varieties also reduces risk.

Organic and Chemical Controls

When necessary, organic treatments like neem oil, insecticidal soaps, and beneficial insects can control pests with minimal environmental impact. Chemical pesticides should be used judiciously and according to label instructions to avoid harm to beneficial organisms and the environment.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a 10a zone in planting guides?

Zone 10a is a USDA hardiness zone indicating an area where the average annual minimum winter temperature ranges from 30 to 35 degrees Fahrenheit (-1.1 to 1.7 degrees Celsius). It helps gardeners determine which plants are most likely to thrive in that climate.

Which plants are best suited for planting in zone 10a?

Plants that thrive in zone 10a typically include tropical and subtropical species such as citrus trees, bougainvillea, hibiscus, bird of paradise, succulents, and certain palms.

When is the best time to plant in zone 10a?

In zone 10a, the growing season is long, so planting can often be done year-round. However, the best times are usually in late winter to early spring or in the fall to avoid the hottest summer months.

How does zone 10a affect vegetable gardening?

Zone 10a allows for a wide variety of vegetables to be grown year-round, especially heat-tolerant crops like tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, sweet potatoes, and okra. Cooler weather crops can be planted in the mild winter months.

Can I grow cold-sensitive plants in zone 10a?

Yes, zone 10a's mild winters allow growing cold-sensitive plants such as bananas, avocados, and certain orchids that would not survive in cooler zones.

What are some challenges of gardening in zone 10a?

Challenges include managing heat stress during summer, ensuring adequate water supply due to potential drought, and dealing with pests and diseases favored by warm climates.

How should I prepare my soil for planting in zone 10a?

Soil preparation in zone 10a should focus on ensuring good drainage and fertility. Adding organic matter, compost, and mulch helps retain moisture and improve soil structure, which is vital in warmer climates.

Are there any specific watering tips for plants in zone 10a?

In zone 10a, plants may require more frequent watering during hot months. Using drip irrigation, mulching to retain moisture, and watering early in the morning or late in the evening can help conserve water and reduce plant stress.

Additional Resources

1. *Gardening for Zone 10a: A Comprehensive Planting Guide*

This book offers an in-depth exploration of gardening techniques specifically tailored for USDA Hardiness Zone 10a. It covers soil preparation, watering schedules, and selecting the best plants that thrive in warm, frost-free climates. With detailed month-by-month planting calendars, it's an essential resource for beginners and experienced gardeners alike.

2. *The Ultimate Zone 10a Plant Encyclopedia*

An extensive reference guide featuring hundreds of plants suitable for Zone 10a gardens. Each entry includes detailed descriptions, care instructions, and tips for maximizing growth and bloom. The book also highlights drought-resistant and native plants, making it perfect for sustainable gardening enthusiasts.

3. *Seasonal Planting Strategies for Zone 10a*

This book delves into the seasonal rhythms of Zone 10a and how to optimize planting schedules throughout the year. It explains how to manage heat, humidity, and occasional cold snaps to keep your garden thriving. The guide also includes companion planting ideas and pest control measures tailored for the zone.

4. Edible Gardening in Zone 10a: Fruits and Vegetables

Focused on growing your own food in warm climates, this book offers practical advice for cultivating a variety of fruits and vegetables in Zone 10a. It covers seed selection, soil amendments, and harvesting techniques to ensure bountiful yields. Additionally, it addresses challenges like soil salinity and pest management.

5. Ornamental Plants for Zone 10a Landscapes

Discover the best ornamental plants that flourish in Zone 10a environments, from flowering shrubs to vibrant ground covers. The book provides design tips for creating aesthetically pleasing landscapes that also conserve water. It includes profiles of both native and exotic species suited to tropical and subtropical settings.

6. Succulents and Cacti for Zone 10a Gardens

This guide specializes in drought-tolerant succulents and cacti that are perfect for the warm, dry conditions often found in Zone 10a. It covers propagation methods, soil mixtures, and creative container gardening ideas. Readers will learn how to maintain healthy, attractive plants with minimal water.

7. Native Plants of Zone 10a: A Conservation Guide

Highlighting the importance of native flora, this book introduces gardeners to local plants that support wildlife and require less maintenance. It emphasizes ecological gardening practices that benefit pollinators and improve soil health. The guide includes planting maps and resources for sourcing native seeds.

8. Water-Wise Gardening in Zone 10a

Learn how to create beautiful, sustainable gardens that minimize water use in Zone 10a climates. The book focuses on xeriscaping principles, efficient irrigation systems, and selecting plants that thrive with minimal moisture. It also offers advice on mulching, rainwater harvesting, and soil conservation.

9. Container Gardening for Zone 10a: Growing Big in Small Spaces

Perfect for urban gardeners and those with limited space, this book teaches how to grow a wide variety of plants in containers suited for Zone 10a conditions. It covers container selection, soil mixes, and fertilization tailored to warm climates. Tips on maximizing sunlight and managing pests round out this practical guide.

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10a zone planting guide: The Plant Lover's Guide to Salvias John Whittlesey, 2014-04-22

Salvias are available in a huge range of sizes, colors, foliage, and hardiness, with over 900 species and hundreds of hybrids. Salvia's popularity stems from how easy they are to grow, their multiple medicinal and culinary uses, and the vibrancy of their blooms that cover every color in the spectrum

from white to nearly black. The Plant Lover's Guide to Salvias features everything you need to know to grow this vibrant and fragrant plant. Plant profiles of 150 varieties highlight each plant's type, habitat, size, hardiness, origin, cultivation, and use in the landscape. Additional information includes tips on design, how to grow and propagate salvia, where to view them in public gardens, and where to buy them.

10a zone planting guide: Beginner's Illustrated Guide to Gardening Katie Elzer-Peters, 2012-02-15 Beginner's Illustrated Guide to Gardening is a one-stop, easy to understand, beautifully designed book with step-by-step instructions and photographs for every important gardening and landscaping technique. New homeowners with no prior knowledge of landscape care will learn how to turn their yards from weedy, overgrown patches to gorgeous landscapes that are the envy of their neighbors. Young gardeners or new gardeners will learn - the right way - how to take care of everything from perennials to shrubs to their vegetable gardens, ensuring success the first time around. This is the one book that every gardener should have on their bookshelf.

10a zone planting guide: Gardener's Guide to Tropical Plants Nellie Neal, 2012 Now gardeners can bring an exotic flair to their gardens by introducing the color, textures, and fabulous foliage of tropical plants. Not just for hot climates anymore, bromeliads, orchids, bananas, palms, birds of paradise, elephant ears, canna, and more can bring a touch of the tropics to any garden. Gardener's can choose from more than 150 plants featured in this book, each chosen for the visual impact it adds to any landscape or container garden. Plants are organized by a range of clearly defined zones, making it easy for gardeners to find the plants that will succeed in their landscape. Author Nellie Neal explains how to best use tropical plants both indoors and out. To make this book a universally useful guide, it is organized to explain how to grow tropical plants in a wide range of clearly defined zones. Further, the book illustrates how to best use these plants in landscapes and containers, indoors and out, no matter where you live. It is a practical, user-friendly celebration of tropical plants.

10a zone planting guide: Betrock's Reference Guide to Florida Landscape Plants Timothy K. Broschat, Alan W. Meerow, 1991 A quick reference guide to Florida landscape plants for students and homeowners.

10a zone planting guide: A Garden Primer a Guide to Gardening in the Midwest for the Novice Gardener Sunita Shastry, 2021-03-04 Designing and planting a garden can be a daunting task for the novice gardener. How do you start? What plants do you choose? What style of garden should you have? In this primer, the author provides a step-by step guide. Covering a wide gamut of plants - from trees and shrubs to herbs, annuals and perennials, fruits and vegetables, she provides suggestions of top picks, as well as details on maintenance and plant care. Ideas of how to deal with problems in the garden are also provided. Garden design principles are covered so that the resulting garden can be one that suits the goals and life style of the gardener. The book ends with a discussion of the gardening trends of the 21st century. A great addition to the library of the novice gardener.

10a zone planting guide: Shopper's Guide United States. Department of Agriculture, 1974

10a zone planting guide: Plant Association and Management Guide for the Western Hemlock Zone Christopher Topik, Nancy M. Halverson, Dale G. Brockway, 1986

10a zone planting guide: Shopper's Guide, the 1974 Yearbook of Agriculture, [1974]. , 1975-06

10a zone planting guide: Florida Gardener's Guide Tom MacCubbin, Georgia Tasker, 2002-06-21 Gardening experts Georgia Tasker and Tom MacCubbin present advice on choosing plants for the diverse landscape of Florida. More than 160 entries provide information on planting, growing, and caring for a myriad of plants.

10a zone planting guide: A Field Guide to Tropical Plant Families Roland Keller, 2023-03-12 This book provides an identification system permitting recognition of plant families in all seasons by means of morphological and macroanatomical features which are easily observable, such as bark, exudates, stems and leaves characters. Studies of forest vegetation may differ in their underlying objectives, but they all require taxonomic knowledge. The process of taxonomy begins with an

inventory of the flora, which has been based to a large extent on reproduction-related organs, such as flowers and fruits. But, those are often difficult to observe and may not exist in the field at a given time. Unlike most such guides or keys, this book can be used anywhere in the tropics and provides, in a straightforward two or three-step process, identification to the level of families, which are now circumscribed according to molecular as well as morphological characters in the universally accepted scheme of the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group. Plant architecture is not a prerequisite theme for plant identification; however, we think that an introduction to this subject is not out of place in this book (architectural traits are taxonomically sound): it is now time for botanists working in the tropics to have an idea on how the whole organism keeps growing. Within the family accounts, there is information concerning important economic plants with notes on the larger genera and, particularly helpfully, discussion of families readily confused and how to separate them. Descriptions of the families rely on short diagnosis bolstered by many photographic pictures, lines drawings and extracts from the author's field books, all showing features of plants as they are found in the forest.

10a zone planting guide: *The Guide to Buying Plants* Tom Riker, 1976 Selecting the right plant for the right place: Flowers, bulbs, trees and shrubs, indoor plants. Plants for special places and plant food and Ph requirements-city plants and pollution problems.

10a zone planting guide: *The Plant Lover's Guide to Epimediums* Sally Gregson, 2015-04-08 Epimediums may have delicate, orchid-like flowers, but they are tough, shade-tolerant perennials that are incredibly low maintenance. Their heart and arrow-shaped foliage changes colors with the seasons, going from green to bronze as summer moves into fall. The Plant Lover's Guide to Epimediums, by nursery owner Sally Gregson, features growing information for 126 commonly available varieties. It also includes lists of plants for particular purposes, tips on how to incorporate epimediums into gardens, and a resource guide that lists where to buy the plants and where to view them in public gardens. Hundreds of lush color photographs highlight the beauty of these charming plants.

10a zone planting guide: Butterfly Gardening Jane Hurwitz, 2018-04-10 An indispensable and lavishly illustrated guide to creating a garden that attracts and sustains butterflies Butterfly gardening creates habitats that support butterflies, connecting us with some of the most beautiful creatures in the natural world and bringing new levels of excitement and joy to gardening. In this engaging and accessible guide, lavishly illustrated with more than two hundred color photographs and maps, accomplished butterfly gardener Jane Hurwitz presents essential information on how to choose and cultivate plants that will attract a range of butterflies to your garden and help sustain all the stages of their life cycles. An indispensable resource for aspiring and experienced butterfly gardeners alike, *Butterfly Gardening* is the most gardener-friendly source on the subject, covering all the practical details needed to create a vibrant garden habitat that fosters butterflies. It tells you which plants support which butterflies, depending on where you live; it describes what different butterflies require in the garden over the course of their lives; and it shows you how to become a butterfly watcher as well as a butterfly gardener. While predominantly recommending regionally native plants, the book includes information on non-native plants. It also features informative interviews with experienced butterfly gardeners from across the United States. These gardeners share a wealth of information on plants and practices to draw butterflies to all kinds of gardens--from small suburban gardens to community plots and larger expanses. Whether you are a gardener who wants to see more butterflies in your garden, a butterfly enthusiast who wants to bring that passion to the garden, or someone who simply wants to make their garden or yard friendlier to Monarchs or other butterflies, this is a must-have guide. An essential guide for aspiring and experienced butterfly gardeners Encourages readers to rethink gardening choices to support butterflies and other pollinators in their gardens and communities Introduces gardeners to butterfly watching Includes regional lists of plant species that are time-proven to help sustain butterflies and their caterpillars Features informative interviews with expert butterfly gardeners from across the United States

10a zone planting guide: *The Plant Lover's Guide to Asters* Paul Picton, Helen Picton,

2015-04-19 The daisy-shaped flowers of asters are in bloom from late summer into fall and are available in shades of white, pink, purple, and blue. Native to American habitats like meadows, prairies, thickets, and swamps, asters can be grown in a huge range of climates. The Plant Lover's Guide to Asters, by nursery owners Paul and Helen Picton, highlights 101 species and cultivars that are readily available in garden centers. Featuring information on growth, care, and design, along with suggested companion plants and hundreds of gorgeous color photographs, it covers everything a home gardener needs to introduce these delightful plants into their garden.

10a zone planting guide: The Cannabis Gardener Penny Barthel, 2021-02-02 A beautifully photographed primer on growing your own cannabis, with guidance on which strains to choose for your USDA growing zone, tips on harvesting flowers, and recipes for salves, tinctures, and edibles. "A phenomenal resource for anyone looking to grow cannabis. Perfectly tailored to guide all growers—from the first-timer to the experienced gardener."—Dan Grace, president and cofounder of Dark Heart Nursery Cannabis is as easy to grow as a tomato plant. If you live in a suitable climate and provide sun, water, and good soil, you can grow vigorous, beautiful cannabis in pots, raised beds, or your own yard. Not only is cannabis an easy addition to your garden, it can also provide health and mood-lifting benefits. The Cannabis Gardener teaches you how to choose which strains are right for you and how to cultivate the plants from seed to finished flower. Gorgeous full-color photographs capture each stage of the growing process and show how cannabis plants can be incorporated into your garden design as well as raised beds and containers. After you establish your plants in the garden and monitor them through the flowering stage, you'll find tips on how to harvest, dry, cure, and store your grow. Also included are recipes for savoring your harvest, from salves, tisanes, and tinctures to cannabutter for baking and cooking delicious treats such as CBD gummies flavored with vanilla beans, cheddar crackers, and even cannabis chocolate sauce. The Cannabis Gardener is an accessible and practical guide for any level of gardener interested in growing their own attractive cannabis plants.

10a zone planting guide: The Plant Lover's Guide to Tulips Richard Wilford, 2025-04-08 Tulips are one of the most popular spring-flowering bulbs. Available in a huge range of colors and in a wide array of shapes, they're a mainstay of most spring gardens. They are the focus of festivals worldwide and are a sure sign spring is on the way. The Plant Lover's Guide to Tulips, by Richard Wilford of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, profiles 100 commonly available species and cultivars, and features growing information, recommendations for companion plants, and tips on how to use tulips in the landscape. More than 250 color photographs bring these colorful gems to life.

10a zone planting guide: *Fire managers field guide*, 2010

10a zone planting guide: The Plant Lover's Guide to Dahlias Andy Vernon, 2014-04-22 Dahlias are the showgirls of the garden. A favorite of floral and landscape designers, they come in a wide range of jewel-like colors—rich reds and vibrant oranges, shocking pinks—and an engaging variation of form and petal shape. The Plant Lover's Guide to Dahlias is packed with everything you need to know to grow these fantastic flowers including tips on using dahlias in garden design, growth and propagation information, and lists of where to buy the plants and where to view them in public gardens. The bulk of the book is devoted to profiles for over 200 varieties, organized by color, with information on type, height, and spread. Gorgeous color photographs bring the plants to life.

10a zone planting guide: The Cornwall Gardens Guide Douglas Ellory Pett, 2006 'The Cornwall Gardens Guide' is a comprehensive guide to the gardens of Cornwall. It includes 120 gardens, public and country parks that open regularly, and a supplementary list of significant historic gardens that are accessible only occasionally.

10a zone planting guide: The Plant Lover's Guide to Sedums Brent Horvath, 2014-04-22 Sedums are most popular flowering succulent. They range from groundcovers to large border perennials and are often included in green roof and vertical garden design because of their visual interest and drought tolerance. Sedums changes dramatically with the seasons—in fall, they are rich and earthy while in summer their flowers come in vibrant shades of pink and yellow. The Plant Lover's Guide to Sedums includes everything you need to know about these beautiful gems. Plant

profiles highlight 150 of the best varieties to grow, with information on zones, plant size, soil and light needs, origin, and how they are used in the landscape. Additional information includes designing with sedums, understanding sedums, growing and propagating, where to buy them, and where to see them in public gardens.

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