

Ecozones Defined

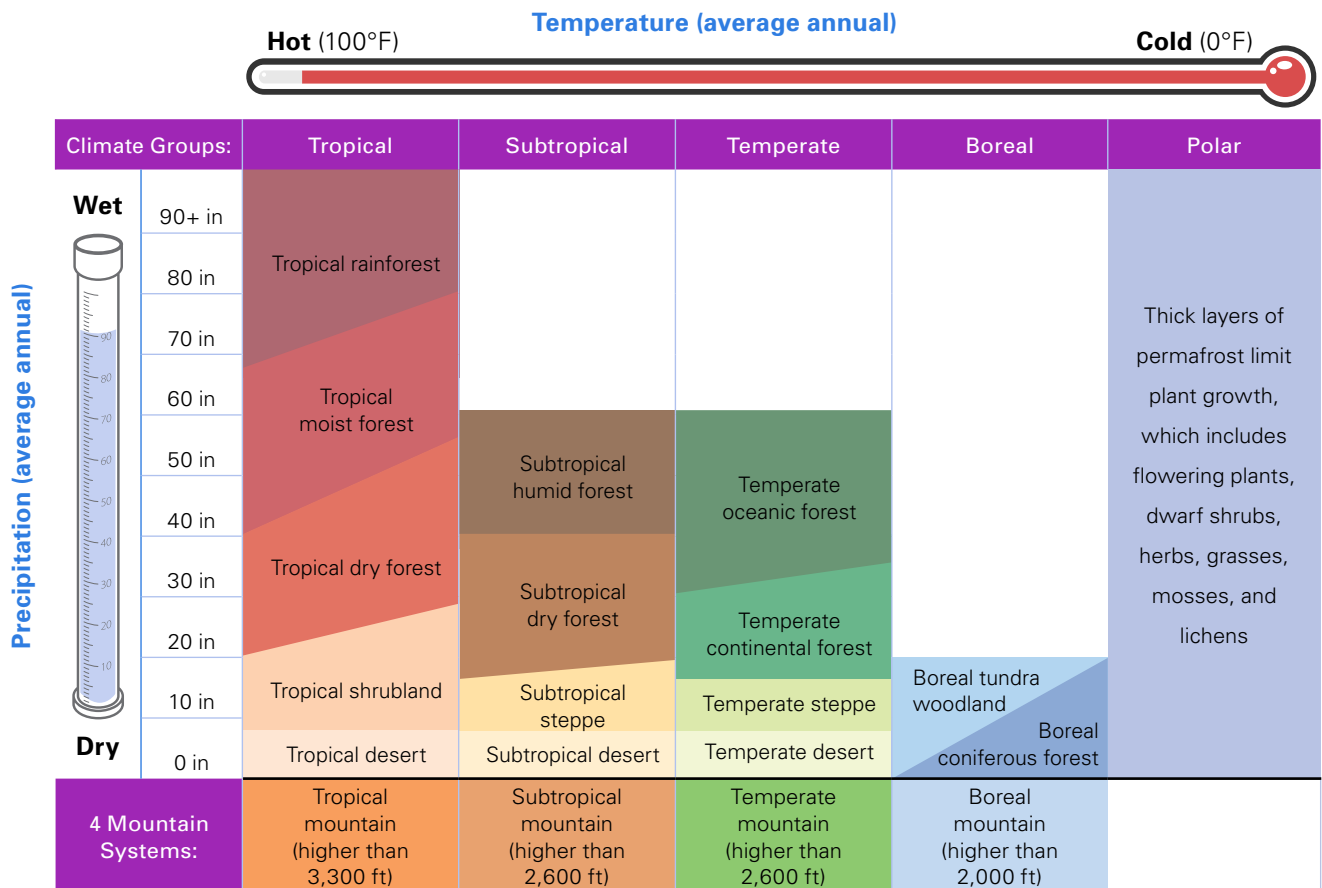
Around the world, forests are classified into five basic climate groups according to temperature. From warmest to coolest, these climate groups are tropical, subtropical, temperate, boreal, and polar. They are highlighted in the chart below, with the thermometer indicating temperature.

Scientists have further divided the five climate groups into 26 different ecozones defined by different precipitation levels, as shown below.¹

In the chart, precipitation levels are indicated by the rain gauge. You can see that tropical rainforests are hot and wet, whereas temperate forests are cooler and drier.²

Since higher elevations affect both temperature and precipitation, mountain forests are considered to be a separate ecological zone within each climate group. The four mountain ecological zones are shown at the bottom of the chart.

Global Ecozones



1 This classification system was adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 2010.
 2 The colors in the chart match those shown on the Global Ecozones Map.