

## The Soil Thermometer

Transplanting shock in seedlings can be avoided, if the soil temperature is checked before planting. Most seeds require a warm soil to a depth of at least 3" (8 cm.) in order to encourage germination.

Planting by the calendar disregards weather variations from year to year. Timing planting based on soil temperature helps assure plants get a good start.

Plants that have been planted in soil that is too cold exhibit symptoms similar to those planted in soil that has poor nutrient values. Once the soil warms up they begin to grow vigorously, if they have survived the cold conditions.

### Instructions

Insert the thermometer to a maximum depth of 2" to 3" (5-8 cm.) in the soil. Check the temperature recorded after 3 minutes.

### Soil Temperature Ranges

VEGETABLE	WILL GERMINATE	IDEAL GERMINATION	TRANSPLANTING SEEDLINGS OUT
ASPARAGUS	50F-90F	70F	
BEANS	60F-90F	80F	
BEET	40F-90F	80F	
BROCCOLI	40F-90F	80F	50F
CABBAGE	40F-90F	80F	45F
CANTALOUPE	60F-100F	90F	65F
CARROT	40F-90F	80F	
CAULIFLOWER	40F-90F	80F	
CELERY	40F-80F	70F	45F
CHARD	40F-90F	80F	
CORN	50F-100F	80F	60F
CUCUMBER	60F-100F	90F	63F
ENDIVE	40F-75F	75F	
LETTUCE	40F-75F	75F	
OKRA	60F-100F	90F	70F
ONION	40F-100F	90F	45
PARSLEY	40F-90F	80F	
PARSNIP	40F-90F	70F	
PEAS	40F-80F	70F	45F
PEPPER	60F-90F	80F	65F
PUMPKIN	60F-100F	90F	65F
RADISH	40F-90F	80F	
SPINACH	40F-80F	75F	
SQUASH	60F-100F	90F	65F
TOMATO	50F-100F	80F	60F
WATERMELON	60F-110F	90F	65F

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