



SOIL TEMPERATURE GUIDE

for Vegetable Planting



The calendar date is not the only factor in vegetable garden planting times. Soil temperature matters as much as the date — sometimes more.



Seeds need a minimum soil temperature to germinate. Transplants need warm enough soil to establish roots rather than sitting dormant or rotting.



A simple soil thermometer gives you reliable information for planting times that no calendar alone can provide.

Push it 2–3 inches into the soil in the morning for the most accurate reading.



COOL-SEASON VEGETABLES

Germinate best in soil between 45°F and 65°F.

VEGETABLE	IDEAL SOIL TEMPERATURE	NOTES
 Peas	 As low as 40°F	Will germinate in very cool soil.
 Lettuce	 50°F – 65°F	Prefers cool soil for best germination.
 Spinach	 50°F – 65°F	Germinates best in cool soil.
 Brassicas (Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Kale)	 50°F – 65°F	Prefers cool soil for strong germination and growth.



WARM-SEASON VEGETABLES

Require much warmer soil.

VEGETABLE	IDEAL SOIL TEMPERATURE	NOTES
 Tomatoes & Peppers	 Above 60°F	Transplant only when soil is above 60°F.
 Beans	 Above 60°F	Germinate best above 60°F. Rot in cold, wet soil.
 Cucumbers, Squash & Melons	 Above 65°F	Need warm soil to germinate and grow well.
 Corn	 Above 55°F	Germinates reliably only above 55°F.



Healthy soil. Right temperature. Great results!



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