



SEED GERMINATION SOIL TEMPERATURES

Presented by HEIRLOOM SEEDS

In general, it is better to sow your seeds a little late rather than too early. If the soil temperature is not warm enough for the variety of seed you are sowing, the seed will often rot in the ground before it has a chance to germinate. This is especially true with seeds that have not been treated with a chemical fungicide. (We do not recommend using treated seeds).

Remember - the temperatures listed below are for the soil, not the air.

In the spring, the air temperatures may be warm for a few days, but this will have little effect on the soil temperature. Only when the days and nights both stay warm for an extended period of time will the soil temperature start to rise.

VARIETY	OPTIMUM SOIL TEMPERATURE FOR GERMINATION	DAYS TO GERMINATE AT OPTIMUM SOIL TEMPERATURE
Bean, lima	85 degrees F	7 to 10 days
Bean, snap	75 to 80 degrees F	7 days
Beet	75 degrees F	7 to 14 days
Broccoli	65 to 75 degrees F	5 to 10 days
Brussels sprout	68 to 75 degrees F	5 to 10 days
Cabbage	68 to 75 degrees F	5 to 10 days
Cantaloupe	80 to 85 degrees F	5 to 10 days
Carrot	75 degrees F	12 to 15 days
Cauliflower	65 to 75 degrees F	5 to 10 days
Celery	70 to 75 degrees F	10 to 14 days
Collard	70 to 75 degrees F	5 to 10 days
Corn	75 to 85 degrees F	7-10 days
Cucumber	70 to 85 degrees F	7 to 10 days
Eggplant	75 to 85 degrees F	10 to 12 days
Endive	70 to 75 degrees F	10 to 14 days

Kale	70 to 75 degrees F	5 to 10 days
Kohlrabi	70 to 75 degrees F	5 to 10 days
Lettuce	65 to 70 degrees F	7 to 10 days
Melon	80 to 85 degrees F	5 to 10 days
Mustard Greens	70 degrees F	5 to 10 days
Okra	80 to 85 degrees F	7 to 14 days
Onion, bulbing	70 to 75 degrees F	10 to 14 days
Onion, bunching	60 to 70 degrees F	10 to 14 days
Parsnip	70 degrees F	14 to 21 days
Pea	65 to 70 degrees F	7 to 14 days
Pepper	78 to 85 degrees F	10 to 14 days
Pumpkin	70 to 75 degrees F	7 to 10 days
Radish	65 to 70 degrees F	5 to 7 days
Rutabaga	65 to 70 degrees F	7 to 15 days
Spinach	70 degrees F	7 to 14 days
Spinach, New Zealand	75 degrees F	10 to 15 days
Squash, Summer	75 to 85 degrees F	7 to 14 days
Squash, Winter	75 to 80 degrees F	7 to 14 days
Swiss Chard	70 to 75 degrees F	7 to 14 days
Tomato	75 to 80 degrees F	7 to 14 days
Turnip	65 to 70 degrees F	7 to 14 days
Watermelon	75 to 85 degrees F	7 to 14 days

RST – RAPITEST SOIL THERMOMETER – One of the biggest problems facing gardeners is knowing whether the soil temperature is warm enough for seeds to properly germinate. This accurate and durable thermometer is cased in corrosion free aluminum and is scaled in both °F and °C. The perfect way to insure success every time you plant!

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