



Horticulture Notes

Soil Temperature Conditions for Vegetable Seed Germination

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| Vegetable | Min (°F) | Optimum Range (°F) | Optimum (°F) | Max (°F) |
|--------------|----------|--------------------|--------------|----------|
| Asparagus | 50 | 60-85 | 75 | 95 |
| Bean | 60 | 60-85 | 80 | 95 |
| Bean, Lima | 60 | 65-85 | 85 | 85 |
| Beet | 40 | 50-85 | 85 | 85 |
| Cabbage | 40 | 45-95 | 85 | 100 |
| Carrot | 40 | 45-85 | 80 | 95 |
| Cauliflower | 40 | 45-85 | 80 | 100 |
| Celery | 40 | 60-70 | 70 | 85 |
| Chard, Swiss | 40 | 50-85 | 85 | 95 |
| Corn | 50 | 60-95 | 95 | 105 |
| Cucumber | 60 | 60-95 | 95 | 105 |
| Eggplant | 60 | 75-90 | 85 | 95 |
| Lettuce | 35 | 40-80 | 75 | 85 |
| Muskmelon | 60 | 75-95 | 90 | 100 |
| Okra | 60 | 70-95 | 95 | 105 |
| Onion | 35 | 50-95 | 75 | 95 |
| Parsley | 40 | 50-85 | 75 | 90 |
| Parsnip | 35 | 50-70 | 65 | 85 |
| Pea | 40 | 40-75 | 75 | 85 |
| Pepper | 60 | 65-95 | 85 | 95 |
| Pumpkin | 60 | 70-90 | 90 | 100 |
| Radish | 40 | 45-90 | 85 | 95 |
| Spinach | 35 | 45-75 | 70 | 85 |
| Squash | 60 | 70-95 | 95 | 100 |
| Tomato | 50 | 70-95 | 85 | 95 |
| Turnip | 40 | 60-105 | 85 | 105 |
| Watermelon | 60 | 70-95 | 95 | 105 |



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For more information, call your county Extension office. Look in your telephone directory under your county's name to find the number.

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Soil temperatures should be taken by inserting a soil thermometer 3 to 4 inches deep into the soil surface and noting temperature. Soil thermometers are available from garden centers, feed and seed stores, and from many garden supply catalogs. Soil temperatures should be consistent for several days before seeds are sown to ensure that the seeds are being exposed to optimal temperatures for germination.