



Homegrown Horticulture

TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

Seeds & Temperature

Whenever we put seeds in the soil, there is always a bit of anxiety about whether they will germinate and emerge. We can negatively influence seed germination if we don't place seeds at a proper depth, if there isn't good seed to soil contact, if the soil is too dry or too wet, or if the soil is too cold.

The temperature of the soil directly impacts on how quickly seeds germinate and then emerge to start growing. Typically, the sooner a seedling is up and growing, the better chance it has to survive and grow. Plants vary in the minimum or maximum temperature at which they will germinate. Every plant type has that sweet spot in the temperature spectrum where seeds will germinate fastest.

Knowing a plant's temperature preferences can give you clues about when to plant seeds. For example, warm season vegetables like beans, cucumbers, and tomatoes all require warmer soils.

Vegetable	Minimum Temp (°C)	Optimum Temp Range (°C)	Germination Rate (days)	Vegetable	Minimum Temp (°C)	Optimum Temp Range (°C)	Germination Rate (days)
Succulent Legumes				Leafy Greens			
Beans	15	23-29	7	Lettuce	0	18-21	7-10
Peas	4	18-21	7-14	Spinach	0	21	7-14
Root Vegetables				Swiss Chard			
Beets	4	10-29	7-10	Fruiting Vegetables			
Carrots	4	23-26	12-15	Eggplants	15	21-29	10
Radishes	4	18-21	5-7	Peppers	15	23-29	10
Cole Crops				Tomatoes	10	23-26	7-14
Broccoli	4	18-29	5-10	Other Vegetables			
Cabbage	4	18-29	5-10	Celery	4	21-23	10-14
Cauliflower	4	18-29	5-10	Sweet Corn	10	21-29	7-10
Cucurbits (cucumbers, squash, pumpkins)				Parsley	4	24	13
Cucurbits	15	21-29	7-10				
Bulb Vegetables							
Bulb Onions	0	21-23	10-14				
Green Onions	0	15-20	10-14				

