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Prior to seeding or transplanting, the use of a soil thermometer allows you to know if the temperature has warmed enough, based on the recommendations for the given crop. This can prevent seeds from remaining dormant or rotting in the soil, and get transplants off to the best start.

USE:

This bimetal thermometer allows quick measurement of soil temperature.

1. Immerse the tip into the soil at least 1½ inches deep.
2. Wait a minute to reach the soil temperature.

Note: Do not expose the thermometer to moisture for long periods because, under the right conditions, the interior of the clear plastic cover can become fogged. If this occurs, place the thermometer in a warm oven (120°F/49°C) until it clears.

CALIBRATION:

For increased accuracy, this thermometer can be calibrated. Use the wrench built into the plastic pocket clip provided to turn the nut on the back of the dial relative to the face. The pointer can be aligned with the desired temperature.



To calibrate, expose the thermometer to a known temperature. This can be done by filling an insulated container such as a travel mug with ice and then filling with water. Wait a couple minutes then stir the ice and insert the thermometer. Wait another minute and then turn the nut relative to the face until it reads 32°F/0°C. It will now be calibrated.

Another method uses a different thermometer that you have confidence in as a standard. Expose this soil thermometer to the same temperature as the standard thermometer and calibrate by turning the nut until they agree.