

SOIL/COMPOST THERMOMETER WITH 3 FOOT PROBE

INSTRUCTIONS



T300-36



OVERVIEW

The T300-36 Soil/Compost Thermometer with 3 Foot Probe is ideal for:

1. Taking the temperature of soil prior to planting
2. Monitoring the temperature of a compost pile.

KEY FEATURES

- Extra-long shaft can reach the center of a compost pile to check the progress of the biological decomposition process. The long shaft also allows you to take temperature readings without stooping or squatting.
- Rugged, durable 36 in. (914mm) long stainless steel shaft attached to a piercing probe
- Dial is calibrated in °F and °C and covered by 3 in. (76mm) diameter glass lens
- Wide temperature range of 0° to 220°F (-18° to 104°C)
- 1/4-in. threaded NPT connection between the dial and shaft
- 1-year limited warranty

INSTRUCTIONS

Insert the probe into the soil or compost pile, taking care not to bend the delicate probe.

DO NOT try to insert the probe into frozen ground. Wait up to 1 minute for the reading to stabilize.

To accurately measure the temperature of compost (see reverse side for the meaning of readings), drive the probe as close to the center of the pile as possible. Because temperature can vary within the pile, you may also want to make measurements at several locations and average them.

UNDERSTANDING AND OPTIMIZING COMPOST TEMPERATURE

Temperature is an excellent indicator of the two-stage process occurring within composting material (see table below). Compost temperature increases due to microbial activity, and the change is noticeable within a few hours after a pile is created. Expect the temperature to rise rapidly to 122° to 140°F during that time, and remain at that level for several weeks. This period is called the active composting stage. As active composting slows down, the curing stage begins. During curing, the temperature gradually falls to about 104°F.

Composting essentially takes place within two temperature ranges: 50° to 104°F, and above 104°F. Temperatures above 104°F are desirable because they destroy more pathogens, weed seeds and fly larvae in the material. Composting temperatures of 113° to 150°F, when extended for more than two weeks, can kill pathogens and destroy the viability of weed seeds. However, if temperatures exceed 150°F (65°C) on a sustained basis, enough micro-organisms will be killed to abort active composting.

Compost temperature indications and suggested actions

Temperature	Indication(s)	Action(s)
122° to 140°F (50° to 60°C)	Active stage	Monitor temperature
>140°F (60°C)	1. Low to moderate moisture 2. Micro-organisms are working hard and generating damaging heat	Add moisture and turn pile Turn pile to accelerate heat loss mainly caused by water evaporation. Allowing moisture content to fall too low increases the risk of reaching damaging high temperatures.
<122°F (50°C)	1. Insufficient oxygen/aeration 2. High moisture content	Turn pile to increase oxygen Add dry material
~104°F (40°C) with no change from above actions	Material is entering the curing stage	Monitor temperature daily. A sustained drop in temperature indicates the end of the active composting stage. The failure of a cooled pile to reheat after turning indicates that decomposition has slowed enough to complete the curing stage.

WARRANTY INFORMATION

General Tools warrants the T300-36 Soil/Compost Thermometer with 3 Foot Probe against defects in material or workmanship for one year from the date of purchase. General will replace or repair the defective unit, at its option, subject to verification of the defect.

This warranty does not apply to defects resulting from abuse, neglect, accident, unauthorized repair, alteration or unreasonable use of the product. It also does not cover products purchased from unauthorized distributors. A proof of purchase must accompany each warranty claim.

For more details or to file a warranty claim, contact General Tools Technical Support at techsupport@generatools.com or (212) 431-6499.

RETURN FOR REPAIR POLICY

Every effort has been made to provide you with a reliable product of superior quality. However, in the event your instrument requires repair, please contact our Customer Service to obtain an RGA (Return Goods Authorization) number before forwarding the unit via prepaid freight to the attention of our Service Center at this address:

General Tools & Instruments 75 Seaview Drive Secaucus, NJ 07094 212-431-6100

Remember to include a copy of your proof of purchase, your return address, and your phone number and/or e-mail address.



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Specifications subject to change without notice.

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