

Weather Wise **Spring Planting** *Answers*

1. Lowest: 51.1°F
Highest: 68.5°F
Range: 17.4 °F

2. Soil temperatures are cooler in the northwest part of the state and warm as you travel to the south and east parts of Oklahoma

3. You could plant lettuce, peas, carrots, potatoes, radishes, spinach, corn, beets, parsley, soybeans, peanuts, sweet corn, cucumbers, turnips, cotton and lima beans anywhere in the state since the soil temperatures are above 40°F but not above 70°F.

4. Okra, pumpkin, squash, watermelon and cantaloupe

You shouldn't plant these because the soil temperature is not warm enough. The seeds would not germinate and would likely decay and die.

5. Gardeners use soil temperature and not air temperature because seeds are placed in the soil and not in the air. Also, air temperature changes more frequently than does soil temperature.

6. The soil temperature at Cherokee is 61.1°F. It would be OK to plant lettuce, peas, carrots, potatoes, radishes, spinach, corn, beets, parsley, soybeans, peanuts, sweet corn, cucumbers, and turnips.

The soil temperature at Antlers is 68.5°F. This means it would be OK to plant lettuce, peas, carrots, potatoes, radishes, spinach, corn, beets, parsley, soybeans, peanuts, sweet corn, cucumbers, turnips, cotton, and lima beans.

7. Gardeners might plant in raised beds because the soil warms up faster than flat ground and remains warmer all through the season.

Gardeners also might use plastic mulch. Plastic mulches will warm the soil more quickly in the spring.

Some gardeners use black plastic sheets (like black trash bags) to warm their soil quickly. The plastic may need to be removed once the soil is warmed because there is a chance it might make the soil too hot.