



# Soil Penetrometer Fact Sheet

**Soil Penetrometer**- a tool which tests the compaction levels of soil

- *Compaction is measured in Pounds per Square Inch (PSI)*

A detailed, color-coded gauge shows the resistance of soil. The resistance of soil is based on how much pressure is needed for the device to break through the soil.



**Soil Penetrometers Can Indicate the Quality of Soils:**

- **Compacted soils can be problematic:**
  - Poor seed germination and root growth
  - Stunted plants and reduced yields
  - Poor water absorption and low soil oxygen
- **a low PSI indicates loose soils: 200PSI or less is ideal**
- Loose soils allow for:
  - More oxygen for soil microbial life
  - Easier ability for plant roots, nutrients, and water to penetrate through the soil

