



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

