

For release
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Soil temperature! Just as the atmosphere warms and cools daily and yearly, so does the soil. The temperature of the soil at any point is the balance between what heat is received from direct sunlight and conduction and what is lost. The daily cycle of warming and cooling affects the soil to a depth of about three feet, and the greatest differences are in the top layers. The yearly cycle of warming and cooling goes much deeper than the daily. The temperature of the soil, like that of the atmosphere, is affected by clouds, dust and moisture, and also by the nature of the soil, its water content and whether it is bare or has a cover crop.
