



TRANSPLANTING WORKSHOP

You have your seedlings, now what?



Now, we should think about where the seedlings need to go. Will that be in another container indoors or is it ready to go outside? The weather will determine what is appropriate for each plant. If the weather is still too chilly for a plant, we can continue growing our starts indoors by potting up, fertilizing, and prepping the final home for our plants in the meantime.

Watering is the most important part in keeping your seedlings alive. Too much water is surprisingly how most plants die. Too little water will also hurt. Make sure to use your finger to test the moisture level of the soil before adding any more water to the plant.

When potting up in a container or into the ground, make sure that you're planting your seedlings at the appropriate soil level. Most plants will want to live at the level of its current soil. Other plants like tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant want to be planted deeper.



Direct Sowing vs. Transplanting



Most of the plants that you started indoors are meant to be transplanted to give them an extra headstart in our colder climate, however, some can and should be direct sown.

Direct sow seeds that are either fast growers with short maturity or have sensitive roots such as carrots and radishes.

Some vegetables that can be either direct sown or transplanted in our area include: peas, cucumbers, squash, leafy greens, herbs, beets, beans, and corn.

When can I get my plants outside? In general most plants will be ok as long as the night time temperatures are above 50°F. There are some exceptions to the rules, however. Cool crops that are frost tolerant can germinate and live in temps around 40°F. However summer loving crops shouldn't go outside until soil temperatures are at least 60°F.



When your seedlings are ready to go outside, prep your final containers or garden beds. If you're using new soil, pick a garden or potting mix. If you're reusing old soil, remove any old growth or weeds and add amendments (such as a granular fertilizer) to the soil.



Hardening off is important.

New plants must acclimate to being outside in a process called "hardening off." Start with a cloudy, warm day and put your seedlings outside for an hour. Keep increasing the time and daylight until after about 10 days, the seedlings will be comfortable outside all day.

It's time to grow vegetables!

Now that your seedlings have been potted up and hardened off and their new home is prepped and ready, it's time to get your seedling ready to produce veggies! Transplant with care, continue watering as needed (not too much or too little), and remember vegetables take a lot of energy to grow, feed your plants!



Happy Growing from the Veggie Team

