

### **Plant Hardening off Tips**

Peppers, Tomatoes, summer squash, cucumber, zucchini, basil, and rosemary MUST be hardened off before planting outside! If growing in a greenhouse, they do not need any hardening and are ready to transplant! If your plants were outside at our plant sale we have done this process for you!

“Hardening off” is the process of getting plants ready for the outdoor elements; they have been babied in our greenhouses and are not used to wind and sun! If you transplant them without going thru this process, they will most likely die or become stunted. You must do this in a consecutive order, without skipping a day.

Day One- Place the plants outside in full sun and wind for 1 hour. Pay attention! Set a timer to remember!! Check on them! If plants show any sign of stress (wilting, drooping) sprinkle with water, making sure all parts of the plant receive water. If they do not show immediate signs of improvement bring back inside. Note how long they were outside.

Day Two- Place the plants outside in full sun and wind for 2 hours. Pay attention! Set a timer to remember!! Check on them! If plants show any sign of stress (wilting, drooping) sprinkle with water, making sure all parts of the plant receive water. If they do not show immediate signs of improvement bring back inside. Note how long they were outside.

Day Three- Place plants outside in full sun and wind for 3-4 hours at the same time you started on day one. Pay attention! Set a timer so you remember!! If plants show any sign of stress (wilting, drooping) sprinkle with water, making sure all parts of the plant receive water. If they do not show immediate signs of improvement bring them back inside. Note how long they were outside.

Day Four- Place plants outside in full sun and wind for 6-8 hours at the same time you started on day one. Pay attention! Set a timer so you remember!! At this time the plants should not be showing signs of stress. Potted plants dry out faster, and will need more water during the day, especially if it is windy!!!

Day Five- Place plants outside for the whole day in full sun and wind all day at the same time you started on day one. Check on them throughout the day and make sure they have enough water. Your plants are now hardened and ready to transplant.