

SEEDLING QUICK TIPS

Hardening Off: Before planting, alternate placing your seedlings in the sun, then the shade, over 3-5 days to prevent sun and wind damage. Gradually increase their duration in the sun each day. We do harden off all the seedlings here at the farm, but your microclimate at your home could be different.

Spacing: Plan spacing based on mature plant size to facilitate maintenance and weed control. Imagine what the mature crop looks like before you place a seedling next to it! An “intercropping” system can be used to get more out of each square foot in your garden. Intercropping ideas include:

Fast + Slow: Plant fast growing veggies like radishes, lettuce, or spinach between rows of onions, broccoli, or cauliflower. Once the fast growing veggies are done, your slower growing veggies will take over.

Tall + Short: Use trellised cucumbers or beans to shade lower growing leafy greens, flowers and carrots. The “Three Sisters” planting technique is a great example.

Companion Planting: Pair crops susceptible to pests (such as tomatoes and brassicas) with fragrant herbs like basil or marigolds.

Timing and Weather: Transplant on cloudy days or in the evening to reduce stress.

Soil Preparation: Ensure the soil is well-prepared. Soil should include nutrients (such as fertilizers/amendments), organic matter (such as compost), have adequate drainage (by incorporating peat moss, compost, or sloping soil in specific directions) and be workable. If it is a site you use every year, try not to plant the same veggie in the same spot (also called “rotating” crops), and use a broadfork or pitchfork to loosen deep soil. If using containers, be sure to incorporate all the above items into your container soil too. Good soil is the key to a long, tasty growing season.

Handling Seedlings: Handle by leaves, not stems, to avoid damaging the delicate stem. Plant seedling in the biodegradable pot for easy planting. This is great for cucurbits plants, which don't like their roots disturbed. If you wait a week+ to plant, the plants could become rootbound. Gently loosen the roots prior to planting to encourage growth. Round bound plants usually recover pretty well. You can also use this method if you prefer to remove the paperpot prior to transplanting; chipmunks do like to dig up the pots.

Depth: Most plants should be planted at the same depth as their container, except for solenaceous crops (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant), which can be buried deeper to encourage stronger root systems. Be sure transplants have good soil-to-root contact, without covering the foliage.

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Watering: Water thoroughly before, during, and after transplanting to help them establish. After a few weeks, a watering schedule should be specific to the type of crop (i.e. a stressed/less watered tomato will taste better & have less disease pressure). Try not to water the foliage, just the soil. Water on foliage leads to more disease pressure. In general, water plants well until you start to see new growth, then back off on watering. If a plant looks stressed when transplanted, it might not be water. Heat and sun mean the plant might just need a light mist to cool down, or a shaded area, until it's established.

FLOWER QUICK TIPS

Culinary and Medicinal: nasturtium, calendula, bee balm, marigold, dyer chamomile, german chamomile

All these flowers do well with adequate watering and partly sunny locations. Water well until they start to send out new growth. If you plant in direct sun, water daily to cool plant down, but not to the point where the ground is super wet. Nasturtiums are good trailing under taller plants, or along the edge of your garden. Many of these drop lots of seeds as they die back, leading to many volunteer plants next season!

Lisianthus

Space 4-8” away from each other. They do better tucked closely, as the wind will break them. Support with stakes/twine as needed. Maintain soil moisture when transplanting, back off on watering once you start to see longer stem growth.

Snapdragons, Calendula, Larkspur

All these flowers do well with adequate watering and partly sunny locations. Water well until they start to send out new growth. If you plant in direct sun, water daily to cool plant down, but not to the point where the ground is super wet. Plant 6” apart. Snaps should be “pinched” above the first leaf to encourage side-shoots. Cosmos and larkspur will produce better quality stems with staking/support, but it's not needed.

Dahlias

These are tubers, like planting potatoes. The hole you transplant into should be double the size of the pot. Dahlias do not like to be deep in the soil. Cover plant with soil up to where the foliage begins. Water well until established. Wet tubers will rot, so back off on watering once established.

HAVE A HAPPY DAY



PLANTING

QUICK TIPS



VEGGIE QUICK TIPS



Cauliflower

Space 2' out from other crops, any closer and you'll get small heads. Intercropping with fast-growing non-brassicas like spinach to enjoy while you wait. Be selective about placement, as brassica pests will affect your cauliflower at some point. Use floating row covers from day of planting to keep off flea beetles, cabbage worms and loopers. Use a spritz of bacillus thuringiensis (bt) when you see cutworms or cabbage worms (purchase at local nursery or online greenhouse store)

Cukes

Cukes love and need heat. We usually plant outdoors pretty quickly after tomatoes. Cucurbitis hate having their roots disturbed, handle carefully! They also are prone to sunscald on their leaves on sunny days when planting, but can out grow it. Space 1' apart, and 2' apart from other crops. Have a trellising plan lined up. I like to plant at the back of my garden and have them grow up a fence/side of house. Harvest before their color starts yellowing and their skin gets tough—and continue to pick fruits every one or two days to keep the plants producing even more fruits and to ensure cucumbers are harvested before they get too large. Pickling cukes should be picked ever 12 hours at peak season. Note that all our cucumbers will have a first "flush" which will be your biggest harvest. After that, production gradually decreases. Keep good airflow around the plant by removing lower and discolored leaves. If space is an issue, you can train them to 1-2 leaders, and remove sideshoot suckers.

Greens and Alliums

Lettuce, Spinach, Onions, Shallots

Little gem lettuce spacing is 6". Butterhead is 1', and spinach is 6". They do well with consistent water. Also, greens can be planted in random open spots in the garden, among the longer to mature upright crops like cauliflower and peppers (note the cucumbers, melons and squash will spread over them though!)

Plant set of alliums (3 per set) directly between greens. Both do well with water. Once greens bulk up, back off watering so that greens touching the soil don't rot. Greens should be harvested first; if you do not harvest in time they will flower. After greens are done, alliums will continue growing. Harvest alliums in August. Å

Herbs

All Season: Rosemary, Parsley, Sage

Sprinkle throughout your garden in open holes. Water well until you see new growth, then back off. Harvest as needed, the general rule is take no more than 1/3 of what's available for a continuous harvest.

Culinary: Cilantro, Dill

These culinary herbs have a set maturation time. They will start

to flower if they are not harvested. If you start to see flowers, it's time to harvest the entire plant. Take it down to 6-8" above the soil, and you can see if it will continue to grow again (during the height of summer, heat will signal the end of it's life cycle).

Genovese Basil & Lemon Basil

Space 8" apart from other plants. When transplanting, keep them watered well until they've rooted. Only water when dry during the season, they do best when not overwatered! Begin light harvesting after plants have become established. A full harvest should be completed just before the plants start to flower, to maintain it's grow cycle. Cut the entire plant 4-6" above the ground to promote a second growth. Leaves are easily bruised when picking, so handle carefully. Do not store at a temperature less than 50°F (it'll turn black!)

Melons

Muskmelon: Amish Melon, Minnesota Midget

Watermelon: Sugar Baby

Melons love heat, and hate having their roots disturbed. Spacing should be 1' apart between plants and 5' away from other crops. I like planting them along the edge of my garden to grow into the yard/away from the neighboring produce. Melons will need to full growing season to ripe so make sure you get these in no later than mid-June. Varieties we sell do well in our climate; beware of general big box store melons as they may be varieties that take too long to mature in our short hot-season climate. Melons are prone to leaf sunscald when they are transplanted, and usually grow out of it. Limit your watering on melons to only when they look dry, as I've seen root rot affects them if they stay too wet for too long.

Peppers

Sweet Bells & Italian Roasting

Space 12-18" apart. Plant when the danger of frost is gone, same as tomatoes and tomatillos. Peppers benefit from a soil nutritious in P & K! Be very delicate when moving seedlings to plant, as the stems may break. Benefits from trellising support, such as cages, stakes & string or basket weave, due to heavy fruit load. Bells can be eaten green or given time to ripen. Sunscald and water-born diseases on the fruits are the main issues we deal with. Fruits with these symptoms can still be eaten, they just don't hold up in the fridge well.

Japanese Shishito

Plant same as Bells & Italian Roasted. However, trellising may not be needed since fruits are lighter. Sometimes branches do break in the wind, and supports via stakes/string can help. Pick often based on your favorite size, all season long.

Hot Peppers: Cayenne, Jalapeno

Plant same as all other peppers, trellising the same as shishitos. Too much N in the soil tends to make hot peppers even hotter! Hot peppers will have 1 big "flush" of fruit, and then gradually taper off.

Tomatillo, Eggplant & Ground Cherries

These seedlings should be planted when all danger of frost is gone, similar to tomatoes and peppers. We do not prune the plants. Branches can be brittle and growth can be quite large, so we recommend trellising with a large tomato cage or the basketweave method. These solenaceous crops tend to attract the first of the Colorado beetle larvae early in the season. Do not plant tomatillos

near eggplant or potatoes, as these beetles do spread quickly. Space 18" out from each other, 2' away from other crops.

Pumpkins

Heat-loving crop. Be aware that the date of to maturity of pumpkins is based on when they are seeded. Since you are purchasing and planting late May/early June, they will be ready early September. Cucurbitis hate having their roots disturbed, handle carefully! They also are prone to sunscald on their leaves on sunny days when planting, but can out grow it. They are susceptible to pest pressure (squash bugs) right out of the gate. Scout and remove; at the farm we use frost cloth until we see their first flower and then remove the cloth (due to pollination needed). Plant 2' apart from each other, and 5' away from another crop. In smaller gardens, plant along edge and allow them to cascade into pathways or up fences.

Summer Squash- Zucchini

Cucurbitis hate having their roots disturbed, handle carefully! They also are prone to sunscald on their leaves on sunny days when planting, but can out grow it. They are susceptible to pest pressure (squash bugs) right out of the gate. Scout and remove; at the farm we use frost cloth until we see their first flower and then remove the cloth (due to pollination needed). Space 18" from each other, and 4' from other crops. They will produce for about 2 weeks solidly before declining in quality. Harvest every 2 days to maintain size.

Tomatoes

Tomatoes should be planted when night temps are 45 degrees or above. Tomatoes like to be buried nice and deep in the soil. Remove (prune) an extra growth i.e. "suckers", leaving only 2 leaders on the top and the main foliage. Water heavily, with nutrients like fish emulsion, before transplanting. Tomatoes are susceptible to foliar disease, so can benefit from biologics like Actinovate. Tomatoes benefit from a soil nutritious in P, K, Calcium; they require a bit more N than peppers. Inadequate soil nutrition can result in funky looking tomatoes. Be sure to have a trellising plan lined up. Determinate plants grow compact/dense, and need a basic cage support. Indeterminate plants grow super tall, and need tall vertical trellising. As the season progresses, maintain airflow around the plant by removing suckers and damaged leaves. 18" spacing is recommended.

Winter Squash

Butternut, Small Sugar Pie Pumpkin, Spaghetti

Heat-loving crop. Be aware that the date of to maturity of winter squash is based on when they are seeded. Since you are purchasing and planting late May/early June, they will be ready in August. Cucurbitis hate having their roots disturbed, handle carefully! They also are prone to sunscald on their leaves on sunny days when planting, but can out grow it. They are susceptible to pest pressure (squash bugs) right out of the gate. Scout and remove; at the farm we use frost cloth until we see their first flower and then remove the cloth (due to pollination needed). Plant 18" apart from each other, and 5' away from another crop. In smaller gardens, plant along edge and allow them to cascade into pathways or up fences.