

GARDEN PLANTING SUCCESS HARDENING AND MUDDING

Toledo GROWS Best Practices—Tending a Garden

Harden off your plants before planting.

What is hardening off?

It is the process of exposing your potted plants to two days of morning or evening sunlight for a few hours each day. This helps the plants to acclimate to the direct and strong, all-day sunlight they will receive when they are planted in your garden.

Why should I do this?

If your plants have been grown in a greenhouse or under some sort of shelter, although the plants receive very bright sunlight, it is indirect light (not full sunlight). Your plants are not used to the strong, direct sunlight they will receive in the afternoons in your garden. Hardening them off (toughing up the leaves) will get them prepared to tolerate and thrive in the full all day sun.

What could happen if I don't do this?

Your plants' leaves may scald (turn yellow, brown or develop white or yellow spots—a plant's version of sunburn—and then fall off). Sun scald will not usually kill your plants, but it will slow growth for a few weeks until the plants can grow new leaves and then set buds again. This delay might mean you have a smaller overall harvest in our already short Northwest Ohio growing season.

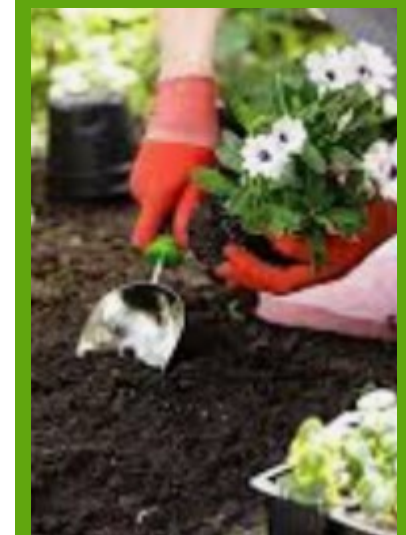
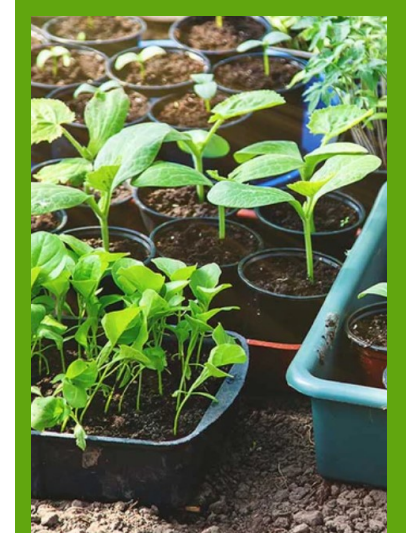
Mud the Planting Hole

How do I mud the planting hole?

1. Place the plant in the planting hole and fill the hole with one quarter of the excavated soil, then add enough water so the soil becomes a slurry of mud.
2. Add more soil to the hole, filling it to the halfway point and then add more water to create another slurry.
3. Fill the hole to the top, gently firming the soil as you go. Leave a slight shallow bowl like depression at the top to act as a "catch" so when watering, the water stays in the bowl and has time to seep down to the roots.

Why should I do this?

Watering from the bottom to the surface at this crucial time of planting helps to alleviate the stress of transplanting by ensuring the plant's entire root system has immediate and consistent moisture.



Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services.

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