

# **What is "Hardening Off" and how do I do it?**

Hardening off means to gradually acclimate plants to outdoor conditions prior to planting. Plants grown indoors or in a greenhouse are not accustomed to the wind, sun, and other conditions they will encounter outside, and could freeze, dry out, or burn.

To harden off your plants, begin 5-7 days before transplant date. Place the plants in a sheltered, shady spot outdoors. Leave them for about 2-3 hours the first day, then gradually increase the time spent outside by 2-3 hours each day. By the third day, try to add several hours of morning sun to the outdoor time.

Bring the plants back indoors each night, or if the outdoor temperature is below 45 degrees.

After the 5-7 day period, your babies can be planted in the garden! Be aware of weather conditions, though, and be prepared to cover the plants if inclement weather (snow, high winds, or freezing temperatures) is expected.

If you have further questions, or encounter problems, give us a call at 303-939-9403

Happy planting,  
Harlequin's Gardens