



## **Caring for your Seedlings**

### **When to transplant into the garden**

- **Cabbage family and most greens can be planted in May.**
- **Peppers/ tomatoes/ eggplant/ frost sensitive herbs (basil) and flowers (impatiens, and many others) should wait until after the long weekend in May, and watch overnight weather forecasts for frost/ cover with anything cloth to protect from frost.**

### **Transplanting your seedlings**

- Prepare planting area by weeding and adding compost. Pre moisten soil receiving the plant, and make sure plant has been well watered. Make a hole to receive plant.
- When transplanting from an individual plastic cell, gently squeeze cell or push up from bottom to loosen roots, for peat type pots, make sure to crack pot/ and remove the top rim, for other situations loosen the soil around the roots with a fork or small shovel, handle by the leaves for small plants/ minimal root ball, or hold by root ball. For most plants, plant the seedling deeper than it was originally. Leave the first leaves just above the soil level.

### **Hardening Off**

- 7-10 days before transplanting to the garden, plants need to gradually become used to the sun, wind, and temperature variations.
- Start in a sheltered shady spot, then give short periods of direct sun, gradually lengthening the time in full sun with full wind and temperature exposure.

### **Transplanting outside**

- Transplant in the evening or on a cloudy day, water plants well before transplanting, make sure they aren't drooping, firm soil around plants, water well again, cover lightly to protect from sun and heat for a few days.
- Try adding 1 Tablespoon of rolled oats to the bottom of the transplant hole (a good fertilizer containing many trace elements).