



Misty Valley Farm, Inc.
Grow Organic.

Hardening Off

Since the plants are coming directly from the greenhouse, they should be hardened off for a couple of days before you plant them for best results. In a nutshell, it's simply exposing them to the outdoors gradually to reduce shocking the plant:

- Cut back on watering and suspend any fertilizing.
- Place your seedlings outside in a spot protected from wind for an hour or two, then bring them back indoors.
- Lengthen the hardening off time. Each day, leave your seedlings outside for more time than the previous day, giving them more and more direct sunlight time.

Planting Guidelines

Hardy Vegetables

Crops: broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, kohlrabi, peas, spinach

Temperature: Hardy vegetables grow with daytime temperatures as low as 40°F. They can withstand hard frosts, which can be 25-28°F.

Semi-Hardy Vegetables

Crops: cauliflower, lettuce, Swiss chard

Temperature: Semi-hardy vegetables grow with minimum daytime temperatures of 40°F to 50°F. They only tolerate light frosts which can range from 29-32°F.

Tender Vegetables

Crops: beans, celery, cucumbers, summer squash

Temperatures: Tender vegetables grow with a daytime temperature above 55°F, and are intolerant of frost.

When to plant: Transplants of cucumbers and summer squash without frost protection should be delayed until frost potential is over.

Very Tender Vegetables

Crop: cantaloupe, eggplant, pepper, winter squash, tomato, watermelon

Temperature: Very tender vegetables are not only intolerant of frost, but also cool spring winds. They need daytime temperatures above 60°F, and prefer temperatures of 70°F to 95°F. A week of daytime temperatures below 55°F, may stunt them.

When to plant: These crops are typically planted two plus weeks after the average last spring frost date. Weather is becoming summer-like, (i.e., consistently above 55°F (daytime) and breezes should have lost any cool nip.

Average last spring frost date for our area is April 30.

1425 Valley Road, Northampton, PA 18067

p 610.428.8139 | **e** aelink@mistyvalley.farm | **w** www.mistyvalley.farm

f www.facebook.com/mistyvalleyfarminc