

Your Hydroponics Transplanting Guide

While you can grow any of the crops listed on our Recommended Plants guide to full size right in your hydroponics system, many growers like to use their systems to start plants before transplanting them into the outdoor garden! This guide will give you tips on how to do just that.

NOTE

Transplanting from hydroponics to the outdoor garden is not a guaranteed success. The hydroponics system creates a very controlled growing environment for crops, and transplanting them to the outdoors can cause crops to go into shock. Transplants might not always survive the transition, the the tips here will offer you the best chances of success!

TIMING

It's best to transplant crops after about 3-4 weeks of growth. This timing allows the plants to have enough growth to be stable, but not so much that they are too well-established and therefore difficult to remove.

- Tip: If you don't see any roots showing, it's too early to transplant!

HARDENING OFF

"Hardening off" is the process of gradually exposing seedlings that were started indoors to the outdoor environment to enable them to adjust to outdoor conditions. This process enables seedlings adjust to a harsher outdoor environment; one with wind, weather, and direct sunlight. Without properly hardening off, seedlings can go into "shock" due to stress from the change in their environment, resulting in issues like wilting, stunted growth, or leaf drop.

HARDENING OFF (CONTINUED)

- Step 1: Transition from hydroponics to soil, indoors.
 - Transplant your hydroponic start into a mix of potting soil and native soil (native soil only needs to be included if your start will eventually go into the ground).
 - Place the newly potted crop near a window or the lighting from your hydro machine for day or two before starting any outdoor exposure.
- Step 2:
 - Begin transition to the outdoors.
 - Place seedlings outdoors in a shaded place protected from wind for 1-2 hours in the mid-late afternoon, then bring them inside
 - Each day, lengthen the time seedlings are outdoors by ~1 hour, gradually exposing them to more sunlight and wind
 - Once seedlings can tolerate several hours of sunlight and wind, they can be left outdoors overnight
 - After 2 weeks of hardening off, carefully transplant seedlings into the garden