



How to Put in your Seedlings for Success!

Gardening is so much fun that you might want to just rush and put your plants in the second you pick them up! But hold on, and read through this short document so you'll get the best results!

Step 1: Harden off your seedlings

The seedlings you just bought from Ripley Farm are NOT already hardened off, so please don't skip this step.

Harden off seedlings before planting outdoors. The process of gradually adapting young plants to increased light, wind, colder temperatures and less frequent watering will help them transition more successfully into the "real world." Skipping this step can result in seedlings experiencing transplant shock and a greater possibility of seedling failure.

How to harden off: Bring plants outside for 2-3 days of mild weather before planting them so they can get used to the direct sun, wind and outdoor temperatures while still in their pots with their roots undisturbed. This will help the plants get ready to be put into the ground.

Step 2: Keep your seedlings watered and safe from frost

Take a look at your seedlings every day while they're still in their pots before you plant them. Water if they are dry and if there is a frost predicted, bring them in under cover for the night and then back outside to keep hardening off.

Step 3: Plant your seedlings at the right spacing

Planting your plants too close together can make them perform poorly! Check out these recommendations here and also on our blog post entitled "How To Grow A Great Organic Garden" at <https://ripleyorganicfarm.com/how-grow-great-organic-garden>.

Ripley Farm's Recommended Plant Spacing		
vegetable	plant spacing recommended	notes
basil	plant 12" apart	pick regularly to prevent flowering
beans/peas	thin to plants 2-4" apart	
beets	thin to plants 3-4" apart	
bok choy	plant 8" apart for medium heads	
broccoli	plant 10-12" apart	

Ripley Farm's Recommended Plant Spacing		
vegetable	plant spacing recommended	notes
cabbage	plant 12" apart	
carrots	thin to plants 1-2" apart	
cauliflower	plant 12-16" apart	
cilantro	thin to plants 4-6" apart	
collard greens	plant 12" apart	plant closer if you want to cut and come again smaller leaves
cucumbers	plant in hills of 2-3 plants, 36-48" apart	
eggplant	plant 12" apart	
kale/Swiss chard	plant 12" apart for full size leaves for bunching	plant closer if you want to cut and come again smaller leaves
kohlrabi	plant 8" apart	
lettuce	plant 8-12" apart for full size heads	plant closer if you want to cut and come again smaller leaves
peppers	plant 12" apart	
spinach	plants 4-6" apart	don't tease apart doublers, if there are
summer squash/ zucchini/winter squash	plant in hills of 2-3 plants, 48" apart	
tomatoes	plant 24" apart	provide support

Step 4: Take care of your seedlings now and into the future

Water them in thoroughly at planting. Watch for pests. Consider covering them with row cover fabric as an organic method to exclude pests. Weed around them or mulch them to eliminate competition. Check out our blog post "How To Grow A Great Organic Garden" for more tips for organic gardening success at: <https://ripleyorganicfarm.com/how-grow-great-organic-garden>

Good luck! And please be in touch if you have any questions!