



PLANTING YOUR GARDEN

Growing and caring for seedlings: Garden guide

Caring for seedlings for a week before planting

If you purchased or were given seedlings that will soon be planted in your Learning Garden, you will need to keep them in good condition until your classroom is ready to plant. Your seedlings will do well indoors or outdoors with proper sunlight and watering. Seedlings will do best in a shady spot with good ventilation. Consider following the directions to harden off your seedlings while you hold yours for a few days.



Hardening of seedlings

When seedlings are grown indoors under fairly consistent lighting and temperatures with no wind, they will need to be introduced to the outdoors slowly. Ideally, seedlings should be able to adapt to outdoor conditions in 7-10 days.



Step 1 (2-4 days): Get your seedlings accustomed to daytime temperatures and wind. Find a shady location with minimal exposure to wind and keep your seedlings there for 1-3 hours during the warmest part of the day. Make sure you do not forget to bring them back indoors.



Step 2 (2-4 days): Strengthen seedlings and expand their endurance to a wider range of temperatures and light. Continue to bring your seedlings outdoors to a shady spot during the day, and if temperatures are not extreme then keep them outdoors for a full day. Make sure you do not forget to bring them back indoors.

Step 3 (2-4 days): Work towards exposing your seedlings to outdoor conditions for 24 hours before planting in the ground. Use good judgment here and do not leave seedlings outside during a storm, near freezing temperatures, or high winds.

