

Hardening Off Young Plants And Seedlings

Crop management

Because young leaves to direct sunlight causes bleaching, wilting, death and increased wind also cause burn and stress to plants. All plants develop a clearish waxy coating over leaves and never expose young plants to hard conditions as cuticle is under developed.

Young plants with an under developed cuticle are much more prone to damages when put straight outside and hardening off begins 1-3 weeks before planting outside. Always pick calm, cloudy days at first without anyway wild swings in temperature and on cloudy days being best, put seedlings 2-4 hours outside in beginning.

Furthermore, at 7-8 days, expose most plants to full sun and at 10 days put them from sunrise to sunset. By 2 weeks, all plants should be fully hardened off and finally, harden off the plants until weather is favourable for planting.