

## **HARDEN OFF YOUR PERENNIALS**

On the first sunny day of Spring, you wouldn't put on a bikini, go outside and spend an entire day tanning yourself after being inside all winter. Neither would you want to spend a cold night outside in shorts and a tee shirt.

Plants need a period of time to get used to their new homes. The adjustment period is called "hardening off." We recommend a hardening off period of about two weeks in April, seven to ten days in May and later. This will give the foliage tissue time to toughen up so the plants don't go into shock.

### **COLD SPRING WEATHER**

1. Put new plants outside in a place that is protected from sun and wind. Make sure they get watered as needed.
2. If nights will be cooler than 30°, bring into the garage.
3. After a couple of days, start moving the plants out a little farther each day into the type of conditions in which they will be growing.
4. Leave the plants out at night unless there will be a hard freeze. They still might need covering at night if the weather is severe.
5. Plant on a cloudy day and they will take right off. When planting, Root Stimulator will help.

### **WARM SPRING WEATHER**

The process above can be sped up, but is basically the same.

### **HOT WEATHER**

The process here is somewhat different since you are acclimating your plants to hot sun and drying winds.

1. Put plants in a cool, protected place for a day or two.
2. Gradually move plants in to the sun over a period of three or four days.
3. Plant in the cool of the evening or on a cloudy day.
4. Be prepared to shade with a shingle or board until plants are settled in.
5. Water as needed. Always check the soil first.