



## Tips on Transplanting Starts Into Garden

1. Avoid purchasing transplants that are "root bound" (where the roots are bunched and intertwined, coming out the bottom of the pot). This indicates that the plants have been in their pots for too long.
2. Try to purchase dark green, healthy-looking plants, and if the leaves have started to turn slightly blue, purple, or yellow, they are probably not worth buying (even if the price is marked down).
3. If the seedling is dry in its pot, water it thoroughly, until the root ball is saturated with water.
4. Handle the seedling gently, and touch it as little as possible. We suggest snipping off extra plants at the base rather than trying to separate them.
5. If the seedling has been grown in a pot, turn the pot upside down, letting the plant stem pass between your second and third fingers, and tap firmly on the bottom of the pot with your other hand (sometimes squeezing the pot beforehand to loosen the soil is necessary).
6. The best time to transplant is in the evening—when the soil is warm but the weather isn't hot.
7. Cover the root ball and potting soil completely with garden soil. Press the soil around the seedling, but not too firmly.
8. With tomatoes, break off the bottom 2-3" of side stems and plant them deeply. Roots will develop from the stem.
9. Water the plant immediately after planting.

\*\*\*A starter solution often helps get the plants off to a quick start. Special starter solutions may be purchased, or one can be made by dissolving 1-2 tablespoons of 6-6-6 fertilizer in one gallon of water. A better solution would be one with a high content of phosphate (such as 10-50-10). Mix at the same rate as above. Pour ½ pint of the solution into the transplant hole as the plant is set; then cover the moist soil with dry soil.