

Seed and Starter Success Guide

Practical, fun tips for healthy vegetable and flower starts after you bring them home.

First Week Checklist

- Keep starts in bright light and rotate daily for even growth.
- Water when the top inch of soil feels dry - avoid soggy roots.
- Avoid cold drafts and strong wind.
- Let starts rest for a day before hardening off.

Hardening Off Schedule

Day	Time Outside	Notes
1-2	1-2 hours	Shaded, calm spot
3-4	3-4 hours	Add gentle morning sun
5-6	6+ hours	Protect from strong wind
7+	All day	Bring in if cold nights

Transplant Day

Plant in moist soil, water deeply, and add a light compost top dressing. Keep transplants shaded from intense afternoon sun for the first two days.

Starter Care for the First Month

Week	Focus	Notes
Week 1	Watering	Keep soil evenly moist
Week 2	Root growth	Light compost top dress
Week 3	Support	Stake tomatoes and taller flowers
Week 4	Growth check	Remove damaged leaves or blooms

Common Starter Issues

Issue	Cause	Fix
Leggy plants	Not enough light	Move to brighter spot
Yellow leaves	Overwatering	Let soil dry slightly
Wilting midday	Heat stress	Water early and add shade

Quick Bloom and Harvest Booster

Mulch once the soil warms and add a thin compost layer every few weeks. Consistent moisture keeps flowers blooming and vegetables growing steadily.

Disclaimer

This guide is informational only. Weather and microclimates vary by location.

Sources

Original content by Wiley Rooster Farm & Greenhouse.