

How to Harden Off Plants

Plants grown in a greenhouse need to be given time to adjust to the variable temperatures, sunlight and wind outdoors. This is called "hardening off" and is easy to do.

* If temperatures are above freezing, set the plants outside during the day in a location that is protected from the wind and out of direct sunlight.

* If it is cool, begin by leaving them outside for an hour or two. If it warm, leave them outside up to half a day. Bring plants indoors the first night.

* Each day, gradually expose the plant to more sun, breeze and time outdoors, including overnight. Soil may dry out quickly, so check plants often and water as needed.

* Usually after about four days, plants are "hardened off" and ready to be planted in the ground. Transplant during the cool time of the day and water well.

The Pleasure of Herbs

Herbs activate all of our senses, inviting us to touch, smell and taste them.

- **They are beautiful.**
- **Make our food come alive.**
- **Inspire new culinary adventures.**
- **They make us happy.**

North Country Master Gardener Volunteers

Serving Burnett, Sawyer, and Washburn Counties

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North Country

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The Herb Six Pack

A collection of herbs used to flavor food dishes of all kinds



Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*)

One of the most versatile herbs for cooking, thyme has complex aromatics that allow it to pair well with other spices to season meat or vegetables. Perennial ~ in zones 5-8

Hardy perennial, great for containers, rock walls, or garden, full sun in light sandy well-drained soil, do not over-water or fertilize.

Giant From Italy Parsley
(*Petroselinum crispum*)

Prized by Italian cooks, this variety produces a bushy plant and a continuous supply of flat leaves with strong parsley flavor.

Biennial ~ grown as an annual in the North, grow in pots or garden; in full sun and rich, well-drained soil, water adequately (especially if in container), host plant for swallowtail butterfly caterpillars.



Garlic Chives (*Allium tuberosum*)

Mild garlic – flavored flattened leaves. Beautiful white star shaped flower clusters are a pleasant surprise in late August.

Very hardy perennial ~ in zones 4-8, re-seeds readily, plant in full sun to part shade in well-drained soil, keep moist, great plant for containers (can be slightly invasive), cut back in fall and bring container indoors, keep cool & dry until spring, then put in a window, water and watch for new growth.



Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)

A classic herb used to season meats and vegetables.

Very tender perennial grown as an annual in the north, will not over-winter in WI and difficult to bring indoors. Great plant for containers or garden, full sun and well-drained soil, drought tolerant and will flop over if watered too much.



Genovese Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*)

A classic large leaved Italian sweet basil, prized for its flavor and heady aroma, it is a top pick for many cooks when making pesto.

Annual ~ fragrant plant growing 18-24". Very tender plant outdoors after any danger of frost and soil temp is 70°, plant in full sun in light well-drained soil, great plant for containers or in the garden, when plant starts to flower pinch back to extend growing season.



Bouquet Dill (*Anethum graveolens*)

A prolific producer of edible flowers, leaves and seeds, all which can be used for flavoring everything from pickles and salads to sauces.

Hardy annual, readily self-seeds, fragrant plant growing 6", bolts in very hot dry weather so water adequately in droughts (early morning), like sunny sheltered area and well-drained soil, attracts honeybees and is host plant for swallowtail butterfly caterpillars.