

URBAN GARDENING PROJECTS

426-916

April, 1981

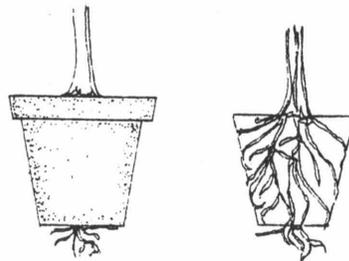
transplanting

There are just a few main rules to remember about transplanting:

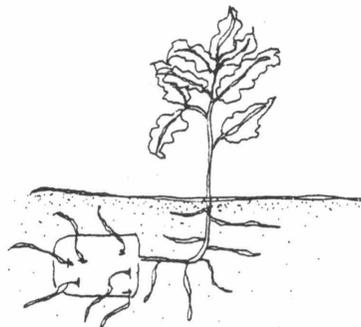
- (1) Disturb the roots as little as possible.
- (2) If possible, transplant on a cloudy or drizzly day. Late afternoon or evening is best on sunny days.
- (3) When transplanting from paper or styro-foam cups, or other pots that hold roots in, remove the cup or pot carefully before planting.



If the roots are growing round and round inside the pot, loosen them a little with your fingers.

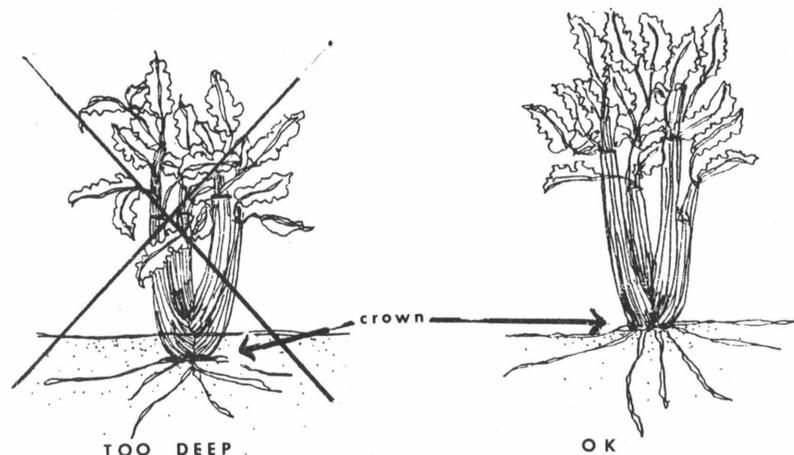


- (4) Most plants are transplanted to the same soil level or a little deeper ($\frac{1}{2}$ inch or so) than the plants were growing in their starting pots.

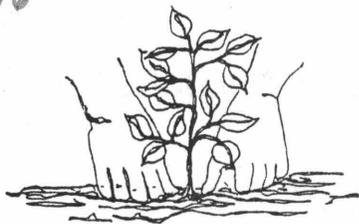


Tomatoes are an exception. A tomato plant can have a lot of its stem planted underground since the stem will grow new roots and help the plant get a better start.

But you have to be very careful to plant celery at the same soil level, and not below it. The crown may rot if soil gets in.



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- (5) Dig a planting hole a little larger than the root ball. Put the plant in and add soil. Firm soil around the plant so that it stands up easily. To do this, press down with your fingers as you add the soil.

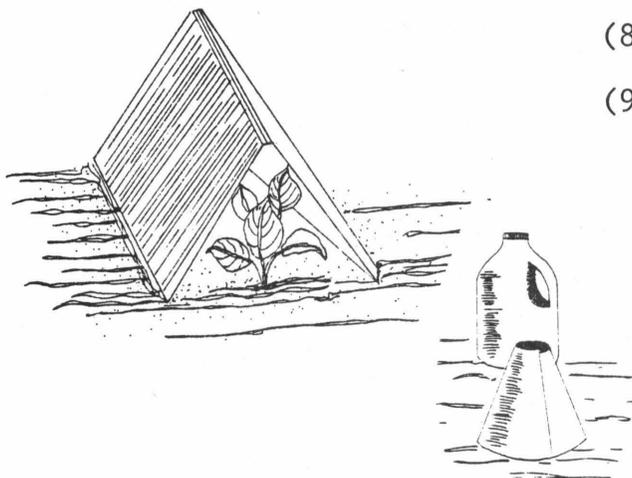
- (6) Water thoroughly. If water washes away some of the soil covering the roots, add more soil and a little more water.

- (7) Get the plant off to a good start by feeding a starter solution of liquid fertilizer or fish emulsion (see Fertilizing HELP sheet for starter solution).



- (8) Mulch if you wish.

- (9) Young plants should be hardened-off (see below) before transplanting and protected from frost, drying and direct sun until well-established. Keep container plants indoors for a few days after transplanting. Cover outdoor transplants with cups, baskets, milk jugs, boards or other protection, especially at night.



Hardening - off

Plants that have been growing inside are very tender and should get used to the weather outside slowly, just as you have to get used to cold water when you go swimming. Put plants outside for a few hours the first day, a few more hours the next, and so on until they can stay out all night. If the weather report calls for a frost warning, bring plants indoors.

New Words

crown: the place on a plant where the stem joins the roots

hardening-off: making tender plants "harder" by gradually getting them accustomed to being outdoors

starter solution: low strength fertilizer for starting plants

transplanting: moving a plant from one place or container to another