



CRAGS Planting Instructions (Rev May/2019)

BEFORE PLANTING-OUT: Hardening-off

Seedlings, mature plants, or divisions established indoors or under cover have leaves too tender to handle planting directly outdoors. Frost, heat, direct sun, wind and low humidity can damage or kill them. “Harden them off” to toughen them by gradually exposing them to more time outdoors or to more exposed spots over a week or two. Water enough to keep slightly moist; and shuffling pots into contact with soil or towels will drain excess water (all containers or flats must have drainage). Don’t fertilize.

PLANTING-OUT:

Ensure your site and soils are suitable for these plants, typically elevated and lean, very well drained soils, usually avoiding composts and significant fertilizer. Invert the pot and while supporting the plant with your hand, tap the edge to free the rootball. Tease out the side and bottom roots. If the pot soil is significantly different than the garden (especially if it is mostly peat) gently remove most or all of it. Straighten bottom roots to full length and dig a whole deep enough to accommodate them. Backfill gradually, pressing gently to ensure there is no loose soil or air gaps. Keep the plant crown at the same level it had been in the pot. If baring the roots, remove or reduce some leaves for better survival. Water in once with 10-52-10 (or similar fertilizer) at ¼ to ½ usual strength. Protect from frost.

SHADING:

All new plantings appreciate protection and shading for a week or two, especially if the rootball was significantly disturbed, to allow roots to recover. Cloches, translucent half-containers, branches or shade panels can work, but ensure they are well vented to prevent overheating. **Fresh divisions** will need extended protection in pot or garden until they show new growth.