

Seed to transplant times

The time it takes for seeds to grow into transplant-ready seedlings varies depending on factors such as the type of plant, growing conditions, and care. Here are some general guidelines for common garden plants:

- **Vegetables:**
 - Tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants: 6-8 weeks
 - Cucumbers, squash, and melons: 7-10 weeks
 - Leafy greens (lettuce, kale, spinach): 2-4 weeks
 - Radishes: 2-3 weeks
 - Carrots: 6-8 weeks
- **Flowers:**
 - Marigolds, zinnias, and sunflowers: 6-8 weeks
 - Petunias, impatiens, and begonias: 8-12 weeks
 - Tomatoes and peppers (for flower production): 12-16 weeks
- **Herbs:**
 - Basil: 6-8 weeks
 - Cilantro: 2-4 weeks
 - Parsley: 6-8 weeks

When to Transplant:

- **Based on Plant Density:** Transplant seedlings when they have 2-3 sets of leaves and are about 2-3 inches tall.
- **Based on Seedling Size:** Transplant seedlings when they have outgrown their containers and are showing signs of root bound growth (e.g., roots growing out of drainage holes).
- **Based on Moon Phases:** According to some gardening traditions, the best times for transplanting are during the “second quarter” of the moon (two days before the full moon).

Hardening Off:

Before transplanting, it's essential to harden off your seedlings by gradually exposing them to outdoor conditions over the course of **7-14 days**. This helps prevent shock and ensures a successful transition from indoor to outdoor growing.

Remember to check the specific seed packet or consult with a gardening expert for more precise guidance on seed to transplant times for your specific plants.