



## Garden Calendar:

- \* Finish pruning fruit trees, grapes, raspberries, and blackberries
- \* Deadhead seed pods from spent bulbs, such as daffodil, tulip, or crocus.
- \* Start seeds inside for tomatoes, peppers, and other warm season vegetables.
- \* Plant new trees in the landscape, especially evergreens.
- \* Sharpen and repair garden tools in preparation for the gardening season.

## Controlling Grassy Sandbur:



One of the weeds many homeowners and public parks struggle with during the summer months is grassy sandbur. Sometimes called “sticker” plants, grassy sandbur produce round seed heads with sharp spines throughout the summer months. Most often sandburs are a problem in lawns with thin turfgrass, but the plant is well adapted to dry, sandy soils.

While a thick, healthy lawn is always the best defense against weeds, pre-emergence herbicides can be a helpful tool in preventing sandbur before they establish. To control sandbur with pre-emergence herbicides, follow the same recommendation used for crabgrass prevention. Not all pre-emergence herbicides will be effective against grassy sandbur, so always read the label. Products that contain any of the following three active ingredients should help considerably in preventing grassy sandbur: oryzalin, pendimethalin or prodiamine. None of these pre-emergence herbicides may provide control, but each should help reduce the amount of grassy sandbur present when applied correctly. Be sure to check the label if repeat applications are needed. For more information on Grassy Sandbur management, visit our fact sheet: [https://](https://hn.k-state.edu/extension/horticulture-resources-center/common-pest-problems/documents/Grassy%20Sandbur%20-%20Stickers.pdf)

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## Hardening Off And Preparing Transplants For The Garden

Growing conditions are very different outdoor versus inside the greenhouse or indoors under a grow light. Plants moving from one location to another need time to adjust to the changes in colder temperatures, stronger winds, greater light intensity, and differences in moisture. Without adequate time to adjust, these extreme changes in environment may stunt plant growth or kill plants entirely. This is why the process of “hardening off,” or the practice of gradually moving plants from their protected environment to their harsher, permanent location in the garden, is important.

Two weeks before plants are intended to be transplanted outdoors, begin the hardening off process by decreasing the amount of water seedlings are given. Reduce the frequency of watering, but do not allow transplants to wilt. Avoid fertilizing plants before or during the hardening off period.

Place plants outside in a shaded location for 2-3 hours during the warmest part of the day (usually between 12-5 PM, ideally on an overcast day if possible). Shelter plants from strong, damaging winds, heavy rains, or extreme temperatures during this time. At the end of the designated time period each day, move plants back indoors.

Each day, gradually increase the plant’s time outside and their exposure to sunlight and wind by a few additional hours. After several days of leaving plants outdoors for 10 to 12 hours, begin leaving plants outside for 24 hours. After a couple of days of being left outside all day, plants should be ready for transplanting.

When hardened off successfully, plants will develop thickened cell walls and tougher, more durable tissue. During this time the leaf surfaces will build thicker layers of wax to reduce water loss in the plant. Plants will strengthen cell walls with additional lignin to build resistance to wind damage. Plants also reduce the amount of freeze-prone water within plant cells.

Keep in mind that not all plants will harden off to the same level of toughness. Cool season plants that have been hardened off will likely tolerate temperatures in the 40’s. Warm season plants, however, even after being hardened off, will require warm nighttime temperatures above 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

