

Unique Garden Centre

DAHLIAS



Every hue but blue!

Dahlias offer one of the finest choices in colors, flower forms and size. Dahlias give the summer sunshine gardener a dazzling range of colorful blooms and breathtaking forms for surprisingly little effort.

Originally discovered in Mexico, dahlias thrive in an open location with full sunshine (half the day minimum), good drainage, and a southern or western exposure.

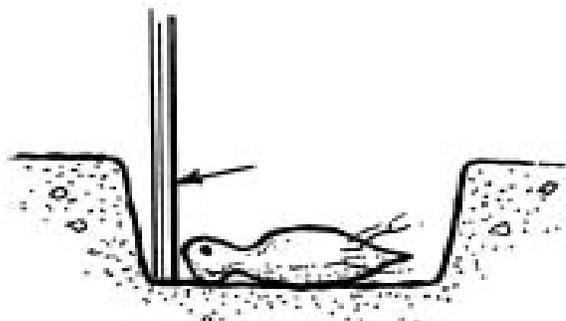
Dahlias are grown from tubers (not unlike clumps of yams from a central stem) or from seeds. Tubers produce flower types and colors that are absolutely true to their parents. Seeds may not.

SOIL: Dahlias thrive in light and sandy soil, well dug to a depth of a foot or more mixed with manure or a commercial 5-10-10 and a peppering of bonemeal.

PLANTING TIME: Tubers can be planted as soon as danger of frost is past and the soil is dry enough.

SPACING: Dahlias used for bedding and edging are usually the smaller sized dahlias and should be set 12" apart. Those for exhibition or display (such as the dinner plate dahlia) should be spaced from 1 – 3' apart.

PLANTING: Separate the tubers with a sharp knife ensuring that each one has a growing bud (an eye) and a section of stem. Place each tuber horizontally beside the stake, in a 6" deep hole, with the eye upward. Cover with a 2" – 3" of soil. Slowly fill in the hole as the shoot grows.





PLANTING AND DISBUDDING: Cut off old blossoms to keep your dahlias blooming more freely. For exhibition quality flowers pinch out the lateral buds and flowers for 2,3, or 4 pairs of leaves beneath the bud on each main stem. For bushy plants with more blooms, pinch off center buds repeatedly after 4 – 6 pairs of leaves have developed.

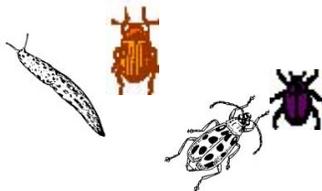
FOR MAGNIFICENT CUT FLOWERS: Cut in the early morning while cool, and place stems in 2” of HOT water from the tap. Leave in a cool sheltered area for 4 to 6 hours before arranging.

STORAGE OVER WINTER: Wait until after a killing frost. Pick an overcast day (avoid direct sunlight as it can shrivel the tubers) and lift root system carefully with a fork or spade. Cut stem as close to the root crown as possible, remove excess earth, put tuber in newspaper or cardboard box, and store in a cool, (but never freezing) dark corner. If storage area is dry and warm, store your tubers in cartons covered with sand or vermiculite. Check from time to time, if roots shrivel, it's too dry, you can mist them, if rot, trim away and treat with a fungicide. Never seal tubers completely in plastic.

DIVIDING DAHLIA CLUMPS: You can divide your clumps in the spring before planting, or in the fall before they dry out. Discard any tubers with broken or overly thin necks. Divide each clump into pie shapes, with at least one eye on each piece. (Note: not all tubers will have eyes)



PESTS & PROBLEMS



Common pests to watch for are slugs/snails, spider mites, and earwigs. Dahlias are also susceptible to mildew especially if not in full sun or in an area of low air movement. Ask our sales staff for treatment for these problems if they occur.