

Dahlia Care

What are dahlias?

Dahlias are a tuber, a kind of fleshy root similar to potatoes. With time the roots will get larger and develop new eyes which growth will emerge from.

When and How to Plant:

Dahlias can be started indoors 4-6 weeks before the last frost. If planted in a pot, use a light well draining soil. Outdoors, plant in a sunny spot about four to five inches deep **after the last frost date.**

Care and Maintenance:

Water when needed, if there hasn't been sufficient rain or it's been unusually hot. Fertilizing is not necessary. Pinch plants once shoots have developed two sets of leaves to keep them short. Stake plants if they reach 3 to 4 feet or higher. Deadhead to keep plants in bloom.

Lifting and Storing:

Using a spade or pitchfork, loosen the soil around the roots and gently lift out of the ground. Allow them to air dry for a couple of days and then brush off the excess dirt. Store in a cool dry place out of the sun, such as an unheated basement or cellar. Tubers can be stored in a paper bag, wrapped in newspaper, or in a cardboard box with sawdust or vermiculite.