

Growing & storing Dahlia's

***Congratulations and thank you for your purchase from Dahliance!** 🌸🌸

The following outlines how to care for & grow your dahlia tubers!

Dahlias are easy to grow perennials and create a stunning garden display. They usually flower for an average of 4-6 months of the year! They can be planted either in pots or raised garden beds . They are available as seeds or tubers.

Dahlia plants are frost sensitive and prefer a position in full sun. Usually planted out in spring and or early summer(Sept-early November).

Flowering from late spring throughout summer, cold weather eventually triggers their dormancy, where the plants then die back down to their tuber, hibernating until the weather warms again the following spring.

Growing dahlias

Dahlias should be planted in full sun to part shade in a raised bed or pot. These stunning flowering perennials can produce enormous flowering heads, prepare for flowering by providing support via staking , garden mesh or wire.

Caring for dahlias during dormancy

In mild areas with no frosts, dahlia tubers can be left in the ground for many years and only lifted and split every 2-3 years . I always lift mine annually @ Dahliance , as I don't want to risk losing any stock . In clay soils or in climates that get heavy frosts, tubers should be lifted and stored during winter months.

To lift my dahlia tubers I use a pitchfork to loosen the soil on either side of the tuber and lever it out. Once the surrounding soil is loose, you can pull on the remaining stalks to gently tug them away. Using secateurs, remove the above-ground foliage which has died back leaving a short stem, then wash away any dirt around the tubers. Multiple tubers can cluster together as they grow, so gently separate these now for better airflow and more plants next year.

Dividing your larger tubers requires some research & skill. Please do this prior to attempting it yourself .

Storing tubers

Please inspect you tubers upon arrival. Check them regularly until ready to plant out. Because dahlias are prone to rot, they need to be stored in a dry environment. I store them in sawdust but you can also use sand, potting mix , or spagnum moss . Your

tubers will be packaged in sawdust . You can also cover them up to the shoots with more potting soil and place in a cool, dark spot which is relatively dry. Once all risk of frosts has finished in early spring, you can plant out.

much nutrients as possible for next years display.

Dahlia Growing Tips

Dahlias require at least 4-6 hours of full sun per day and a well-drained nutrient rich soil.

Prepare soil by adding compost or well-rotted cow manure, protect from snails and slugs while foliage is new.

Plant your tubers anytime through , September, October and November. Plant your dahlia tubers so that the 'crown' is at a depth of 8cm with a spacing of 50cm apart (for tall types) or 20cm apart (for mini types.)Mulch plants well with compost and straw once foliage emerges to prevent water loss during hot summer months.

When foliage reaches a height of 40cm (for tall) or 20cm (for minis)- you can tip out the ends of plants to encourage bushier for self-supportive growth. Stake tall types as required and or cut back to prevent plants from breaking.

Pick flowers regularly to encourage repeat flowering for many months.

Dead-heading dahlias can help to keep them flowering, in fact the more you pick, the more they flower. However, at the end of the flowering season, remove the top third of growth to allow the tubers to reclaim as