



About Dahlias

Dahlias are tuberous perennials, and most have simple leaves that are segmented and toothed or cut. The compound flowers may be white, yellow, red, or purple in color and begin flowering late in the summer, continuing to flower until interrupted by frost in the autumn.

When to Plant

Sow in flats or trays indoors, 4-5 weeks before the final frost date of the spring. Transplant outdoors after the threat of frost, when soil temperatures are consistently 65-70 degrees F.

Where to Plant

Choose a full sun location with well-draining, low nitrogen soil.

How to Plant

Start indoors with plain potting soil, avoiding soils amended with fertilizers. Sow your seeds onto the surface of the soil and compress, but don't cover, as they require light exposure to germinate. Transplant in 4-5 weeks outdoors. Once established, fertilize with a high phosphorus fertilizer after about 3 weeks.

Caring for Dahlias

You can continue to fertilize with a high phosphorus fertilizer approximately every 3-4 weeks to encourage blooms. Over fertilizing will lead to bushy growth with smaller blooms. In the fall, after the plants have died back, cut your growth down to about 2" above the surface of the soil. Carefully dig out your dahlia tubers that have developed and remove any excess soil. Dry for 1-3 days, and store in cool, dry conditions with little exposure to sunlight. Your dahlia tubers can be planted once again in the following spring.