

# **Dahlia Planting Guide**

#### **About Dahlias**

Spaniards reported finding the plants growing in Mexico in 1525, where the tubers were used as a source of food by the indigenous peoples. Once European royalty got a glimpse of their immense beauty, they sent seeds, cuttings, and tubers to botanists and nurserymen to grow in their gardens. Dahlia species began to swell. As professionals and home enthusiasts have hybridized them throughout the years, dahlia blooms have become showier and more awe-inspiring than ever. Now they're a favorite for growers of all types.

#### What are Tubers?



Is it a bulb? Is it a root? No, it's a tuber! Commonly referred to as "bulbs," dahlia tubers are clustered together at the bottom of a stem, where they store food for the growing season. Dahlia tubers can have several growing points called eyes, and can get bigger each year making more growing points. Dahlias are easy to grow and put on an amazing show all summer long. We're proud to offer one of the largest and freshest selections anywhere!

#### When & Where to Plant

Dahlias love sun and heat and can be planted as late as mid-June in most parts of the country. They will tolerate some shade, but for big consistent and prolific blooming full sun is best.

## Dig & Place Tubers





Dig a hole big enough to accommodate the tubers, then place them all in the hole with the stubs of last year's stem/stems pointing up.

### Fill & Maintain



Fill the hole so the tubers are about 2" below the surface of the soil. Unless it is a very dry spring, it is not necessary to water after planting. Watering at the time of planting may encourage rot, but as soon as your dahlias are growing above the ground, water them deeply to encourage strong roots.

As the plants grow, remove any broken or damaged foliage. Once the plants are several feet high, the lower leaves can be removed to increase air circulation. You may need to stake them at this point as some dahlia blooms can reach up to 10" across and become very heavy. The more you cut, the more your plant will bloom. Dahlias continue to bloom prolifically right up until frost.