

*the dahlia
house*

TDH GROWING GUIDE

HOW TO GROW DAHLIAS

• FLOWERS •

MAKE *life* BETTER

WWW.THEDAHLIAHOUSE.COM

HOW TO GROW DAHLIAS

BUY TUBERS

STORAGE

- Tubers need to be stored in a cool (40 - 50 degree) and high humidity location until you are ready to plant.

IDEAL TEMPERATURES (WHEN TO PLANT)

- When your soil temps warm up to 60 degrees or so and all chance of frost has passed.

WHERE TO PLANT

- Dahlias need at least six hours of full sun each day, so pick a spot that is full of sunshine. They do great in raised beds, in pots on your deck (make sure they're at least 14" wide and deep...the bigger the better) or planted directly in the ground.

HOW TO PLANT & SPACING

- Mix 4" or so of compost and a balanced fertilizer into your soil before planting. Plant tubers 3"-4" deep in well-drained soil with the eye face up (if possible). If you're like me and sometimes plant late, the tubers can already have shoots coming out that are a bit squirrely. Don't stress over exactly how the sprout is positioned...it'll eventually find its way to the surface.

STAKING

- Dahlias tend to be top-heavy and are susceptible to wind damage. You can support plants individually by sinking a t-post a few inches away from the tuber at time of planting and then loosely tying the main stalks of the dahlia plant to the post as it matures. If you have more than a couple plants, I like sinking t-posts every 5 feet or so and running twine around the outside of the posts to corral them.

WATERING

- Unless the soil is completely dry, there is no need to water at all until you see about 4" - 6" of growth above the ground. Once the plants are tall enough, keep the tubers moist but not soaked. I like to stick my finger in the dirt – even if the top layer is bone dry, if I find moisture an inch or so down, I know my plants are doing just fine.

PINCHING

- When the plants reach about 12" in height, pinch off the top growing center, taking away 1-2 sets of leaves. This encourages more growth from the base, resulting in longer stems and 3-4 times more flowers!

ANNE'S TIPS

- Slugs and snails love tender dahlia shoots! I recommend applying Sluggo Plus a few weeks before planting, at planting and every 2 weeks after until the new shoots are about 12" tall.
- If you have a sprout that pops off the tuber don't worry. Your tuber will grow some new ones in its place. You can try potting up the little shoot (or planting it directly in the ground). If it takes it can make a new plant, tuber and all!