

How to Grow Dahlias



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Dahlias blooms are stunning. If you've begun the slide down the slippery slope of dahlia addiction, here are some tips to help you grow them well.

1. GIVE YOUR DAHLIAS A SPOT IN THE SUN: Plant them in full sun. The more sun they get, the more flowers they seem to produce.
2. PLANT THEM AFTER YOUR GARDEN SOIL HAS WARMED: Wait to plant dahlias until the ground temperature is at least 60 degrees Fahrenheit and all danger of frost is past.
3. PLANT THEM IN LOOSE, WELL-DRAINED SOIL ABOUT 4"-6" DEEP: If they're planted in ground that's too wet, they may rot before they have a chance to sprout leaves. Dig a hole 4"-6" deep and position your tuber so that the eye's or sprouts are facing up.
4. FEED THEM OCCASIONALLY: Dahlias can benefit from a bit of feeding, but go easy on the nitrogen or they'll be all bush and no bloom.
5. GIVE THEM ROOM TO GROW: Space them at least 18"-24" apart so they have room to spread.
6. PROTECT THEM: Use 'Sluggo Plus' or some means of controlling the damage from slugs and insects.
7. PRUNE OUT THE CENTER STEM: If you want a bushier plant, pinch or cut the main stem of your dahlias when they're about a foot high.
8. STAKE YOUR DAHLIAS: Dahlias can get top-heavy when they're in bloom so stake them before they get too tall.
9. KEEP THEM CUT: If you want abundant blooms keep cutting your dahlia flowers. Don't be afraid to cut long stems.

There's often a little trial and error involved in learning how to grow dahlias, but with some perseverance, it can be a gorgeous, rewarding experience.