

# Want Beautiful Dahlias

Who doesn't want Beautiful Dahlias? Follow the steps below and you should have Beautiful Dahlias .

Dahlias what a beautiful flower, I never realized how many different types of Dahlias there are,

so many gorgeous ones, shapes and sizes. I surely want beautiful dahlias. Last year I purchased a Dahlia plant from my local greenhouse <http://blessingsgreenhouse.com> where I buy most of my vegetable and flower plants.



I did not realize what a dazzling flower dahlias are, I also did not know

that you can take the tuber from the plant and use it for next year's garden.

My Dahlia grew to be such a delightful plant, so I figured I would try another one this year, it had even

prettier flowers than last year's Dahlia.



This year's Dahlia

This year's Dahlia didn't get as big as last years but I really like the flowers on this year's Dahlia then last years.

They still both graced my front flower bed with Dahlia elegance, I can't wait until next spring when I can plant more beautiful dahlias.

Now I want to share a number of tips on how to plant, care and winter storage for Dahlias. We can look forward to some beautiful flowers again in the next flowering season.

Dahlia are colorful spiky flowers the normally bloom midsummer to first frost. They range in different colors and sizes, there are Dahlias that are as large as 10 inches in diameter and most of the Dahia plants grow to be 4 to 5 feet tall.

## **Planting:**

- Don't plant your dahlias before the ground has warmed up to 55-60 degrees, about the same time you would plant your tomato plants.
- Plant your dahlias where they will receive full sun, they bloom better when they have 6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight, morning sunlight is a delight to these gorgeous flowers. In warmer climates morning sun and afternoon shade works well for dahlias.
- Space your dahlias 18" – 24" apart, this spacing will give a fuller, more grown look together.

- Plant in well-drained soil, with a PH level 6.5 to 7.0, slightly acidic and if you have a heavy soil you can add some sand or peat moss, gives it better drainage. If you have just had a heavy rain wait to plant your dahlias, they don't like soggy soil. If your soil seems depleted it would be good to either till in some compost or add compost to the planting hole.
- The planting hole should be a little larger than the root ball/tubers. You can add some peat moss or bonemeal to the hole when planting.
- **Don't** plant tubers that look wrinkled or rotten. Plant with the points or eyes facing up, 6 to 8 inches deep, crowns just above the soil level.
- **Do not** water your tubers when you plant them, wait until you see sprouts appear. After the dahlias are established you can give them a deep watering 2 to 3 times a week.
- **Do not** cover the new plantings with mulch or bark, will keep the soil too moist.

## Care:

- Dahlias may need extra support. Tall and large dahlias can be supported with stakes 5 to 6 feet tall around the plants as they grow.
- Fertilize your plants after sprouting, they will bloom from mid-summer until early Autumn. Dahlias require low nitrogen fertilizers, so using a 5-10-10 ratio or 10-20-20. Don't over fertilize otherwise you will risk having small blooms or no blooms at all.
- Pinch the center shoot just above the 3rd set of leaves on the larger dahlias, but on the smaller varieties, pinch above the 4th or 5th set of leaves (height of 12-18" in height). The pinching will give you a bushier dahlia, stronger and more blooms.
- Cutting your flowers, the more you cut the more they bloom. You can enjoy these beauties indoors too, cut a

long stem even if it means having 2 buds in your cut stem and once promotes healthier growth, a more manageable plant and more blooms.

Now that we know how to plant and care for Dahlias so we have a beautiful show of flowers in our flower bed, we can wait for that healthy plant to reveal the blooms, which can take 90 days for the small/medium size and up to 120 days for the larger dahlias to bloom, that is for tubers. Of course if you buy your smaller plants at a greenhouse or nursery as I did they will bloom within a short time and you will enjoy them most of the summer, (the pictures of the plants above are from the greenhouse).

I wanted to share a couple of pictures of Dahlias that my niece had grown this summer, aren't they just gorgeous, gave me inspiration to plant more of dahlias next year. After doing all the research I have done on planting and care for dahlias I am looking forward to have some very beautiful healthy plants.



The following link will give instructions on how to store your dahlia tubers for winter.

GardeningStepbyStep: <http://gardeningstepbystep.com/taking-car>

[e-of-dahlias/](#)