Visit Our Website

View Our News

There is Still Time to Plant Dahlias

June 2021



Dahlias and Chicken Coop, Photo by Joe Mismas, ADS Photo Contest 2020

Some of us have been thinking about planting dahlias for three or four months. June, however, is also a planting month. Tubers develop on their own time cycle. When I put them out in March, in flats with heat pads, they were very slow to develop eyes and shoots. During May the process dramatically speeded up. Possibly, it was longer days and warmer weather. Many of the dry tubers that I had given up on, now

have sprouts and rootlets. They may bloom a little later, but will continue to frost, and still yield tubers that can be stored.

If you have not yet acquired tubers, they will probably be available at garden centers and big box stores. Even some of the commercial dahlia sellers on the internet are offering discounts on their remaining stock. But move quickly, this has been a big year for new gardeners.

I just finishing planting this week. Some of my plants in pots were 18” tall, and others, from flats, have not shown a spout above ground. We have had considerable rain, but my drainage is decent, and I doubt that any will drown in too much moisture. That can happen before the tuber develops a good root system.

We put in stakes, planted, and tagged. Then I made a map of each row. I have never seen a bird remove a tag, but I think some can. Dahlias will continue to make feeder roots almost at ground level; a time-release fertilizer will do for most of the season unless you are growing for exhibition. There are innumerable fertilizing theories—we have included some links below.



Even if you just have a few dahlia plants in the garden, removing the growing tip of the plants when they have three to five pairs of leaves (“topping” or "pinching") will make it bushy and will provide more blooms. Kristine Albrech, ADS Genome Project Director, will show you how in this **short video**.



When the plants are about a foot tall, it is time to start tying your plants to the stake, without strangling them, as illustrated in **this video** by yours truly; or, to supporting them in some **other manner**.



The small container plants have started to bloom. Make sure they stay watered during hot/dry spells. Remove the spent blooms. If they grow vigorously, support the plant with a tie and a short stake.

Remember, have fun.
Harry Rissetto

More Information:

Tying Dahlias

Minnesota Dahlia Society – Tying up Dahlias

The Wonderful World of Plant Chemistry (Nitrogen Theory)

[Fertilizing Dahlias (Nitrogen theory)]

[Tips on Planting & Fertilizing Dahlias - an expert's explanation of fertilizers and nutrients]

[Pinching, Fertilizing, and Staking (no nitrogen theory)]

[Growing Dahlias in Containers]

American Dahlia Society

Contact Us

