



Dahlia Tuber Info & Planting Guide



Thank you for choosing to support my farm with your dahlia tuber purchase this year! Please take the time to read this important information regarding your purchase.

1

Unpack your tubers and inspect them immediately. We pack them in vermiculite and plastic bags, but this might not work for long term storage for you, depending on where you live. Tubers come in all shapes and sizes, wrinkling is normal, even a light dusting of mold can be normal and not impact the tuber if cleaned off and left out to dry. We select the best, healthiest tubers to sell to our customers, but some varieties don't produce the best looking tubers.

2

Please contact us within **2 days** of receiving your tubers if you are unsatisfied and would like to start the return process; **you have up to 7 days after receiving them to return.** If any tubers arrive rotten/moldy/mushy, this is not normal or acceptable, please let us know and we will make it right.

3

Every single tuber has been handled and inspected multiple times before it arrives to you. **Every tuber is shipped with a guaranteed eye(s)**, even if you cannot see the eye, the tuber/small clump has all the necessary parts (crown/neck/body) to grow into a beautiful flower. Remember: eyes are NOT the same as a sprout/shoot. Sometimes the eyes go dormant after we have checked them waiting to be packaged and shipped. Some tubers will arrive with very visible eyes and even start growing a shoot, others the eyes will be hard to even see.

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If you are not ready to plant yet, store your tubers in a cool, dark area until it's time to get them into the ground. If you want to get a head start and get them to wake up, but them in a pot with damp (not sopping wet) potting soil in a warm area and watch them start growing. They need a bit of water so they don't dry out, but don't overwater or they could rot.

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When to plant: in general, you have to wait until your frost date has passed and your soil is at least 10 degrees C. I am in zone 3b and I always plant my tubers mid-April; my ground is workable and warm enough and will insulate the tubers if it happens to snow or get really cold again. It is not recommended to plant your tubers if you have heavy rainfall in the forecast, or you risk them rotting. Speaking of which: choose a well-draining spot to plant them with at least 6 hours of sun. You can add some amendments to your soil if you like, but I've never had an issue growing dahlias in newly tilled soil either. You can also plant in pots, 1 tuber per 12-18" in diameter pot. Potted tubers will require more watering.

6

How to plant: plant your tubers 4-6" deep and lay them down horizontally with the eye up if you can see it; if you can't, don't worry, they will know what to do and where to grow. Plant at least 12" apart, and if growing on a small scale, you can stake or use a tomato cage to support your dahlias as they grow; place before you fill in your hole so you don't pierce your tuber. You don't need to water your dahlias until the sprouts break through the soil. Don't forget to label the variety where you've planted so you know what to expect when they bloom and if you intend to dig them up and store them at the end of the growing season.





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Care: once they are growing well, dahlias need a LOT of water, especially during a heat wave. At least 1" of water weekly, more if it's hot. The leaves of your dahlia will start to curl/wilt if they're thirsty. Once dahlias have 4-5 sets of leaves, pinch the centre shoot just above the set of leaves. It seems counterintuitive to cut a growing plant, but dahlias should be pinched so they send more side growth and give you more flowers.

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Pest control: You have to keep up on your weeding as your dahlias get established, or they'll quickly take over. Once the dahlias are big enough, they shade out most weeds from growing. I do not have snail/slug issues in Alberta, but if you're in a more wet climate prone to these pests, you can set out your traps as you're planting. Please check out my website for more specific pest control issues.

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Tips/things to note: it can take **up to 12 weeks** for some dahlias to wake up and start growing. I do my best to not sell/grow these because of our short growing season, but sometimes I don't know with new varieties. Even if dahlias don't look 'picture perfect' and have some bumps or wrinkles, they should still grow. Remember: when growing anything, not every single seed, bulb, corm, root and tuber that you plant will grow, it's just not how gardening and growing things works. I know it's frustrating when something doesn't grow, but I try to take these as learning experiences to improve on for next year. There are pests, weather, growing conditions, and so many other factors that can impact how things grow (or don't!), I experience at least 15% loss on my dahlia tubers every growing season for a plethora of reasons.

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Returns: as mentioned previously, you need to inform us via email only (no DMs on Instagram please) **within 2 days of receiving** your tubers if you would like to return them. You will need to pay for your own return shipping that is tracked and provide us with the tracking number. You need to ship them back in the same packaging it was shipped in---a plastic zip bag with vermiculite within 7 days of receiving them so I can re-sell or plant them myself, once received, you will receive your refund issued on your original payment method. After the 7 day window has passed, your order is no longer eligible for a return.

Scan for more info
on my Dahlia FAQ
page!



Thank you for choosing my farm to purchase your tubers from this year. I know you have a lot of options, and your choice to support me means a lot. Happy growing!



Sarah



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