



# GROWING GUIDE: DAHLIAS





# WHEN & WHERE TO PLANT YOUR DAHLIA TUBERS



- Full Sun - about 8 hours of direct sun is best.
- Less sun = fewer blooms.
- Soil should be loose and well-draining. (not a wet area)
- Plant in mid May when the soil has started to warm up a bit (after Mother's Day!)
- Dig a hole 4-6 inches deep
- Space 15-18" apart
- Water after you see sprouts, then water + fertilize weekly with 10-20-20

# SOIL PREPARATION & PLANTING

## Soil & Spacing

- The ground should be warm and soil should be loose.
- Amend with any of the following to loosen heavy soil (most New England areas):
  - Sand
  - Manure
  - Peat Moss
- If your soil is sandy, amend with compost!
- Plain old dirt is fine! Do not amend if you don't need to. Just to get going, compost works fine. If you become more serious about gardening, take a soil test. Most New England soil is acidic and will need lime to balance the pH.
- Mulch heavily with cooked hay to avoid weeds and retain moisture between watering AFTER sprouts have appeared.
- \*Space 15-18" apart

# WATERING + FERTILIZING

- Once planted and as soon as the weather turns warm in June, dahlias need VERY deep waterings 2-3 times per week.
- We recommend drip irrigation for lots of dahlias, but if your garden is small, hand watering or a sprinkler is just fine.
- **Resource:** [www.dripworks.com](http://www.dripworks.com)
- Fertilize every other week with a low nitrogen, high phosphorus fertilizer like a 10-20-20 or 5-10-10.
  - Nitrogen = leaf growth & green color
  - Potassium = strong stems & fast growth
  - Phosphorous = new roots, fights disease & more flowers



# STAKING & SUPPORTING



We use Hortonova laid horizontally about 18" from the ground and supported by wooden posts. This is best for large quantities of dahlias planted in rows.

[www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com)

For single plants, any staking product will work. We recommend 4" wooden tomato stakes.



# WEEDING & PINCHING

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\* Weed as needed and always by hand. We recommend mulching with cooked hay to lock in moisture and prevent weeds.

\* To promote branching & long stems, pinch or cut the center stem (first bud) of your plant when it is about 18" high.

To learn more, attend one of our Grow Your Own Cutting Garden Workshops next Spring! Happy Growing!



# ENJOY NATURE'S BOUNTY

