

HARRIS® SEEDS



CUT DAHLIA GROWING INSTRUCTIONS

Open bags and boxes upon arrival. Store tubers in a cool, 50-60 degree area, with bags open until planting. Plant a few weeks after the last spring frost when the ground has warmed up a bit. Cold, wet soil can cause tubers to rot. Plant in full sun. Dahlias in shade will not bloom reliably.

Plant so the old stem is just below the surface, with tubers spread out horizontal or slightly downward. Tubers may be divided if multiple “eyes” are visible. Each eye must have a tuber firmly attached to grow properly. If in doubt, don’t divide. Tubers held on “by a thread” are not viable. If dividing, allow divided tubers to sit for several days so the cuts can dry and heal over.

Water well when planting, then sparingly until they have sprouted. Once the plants are 12” tall, water more frequently. When plants are 2-3’ tall, they may need deep, thorough watering several times a week if there is not sufficient rain. Drip irrigation is best.

Use a lower nitrogen fertilizer, such as 5-10-10. Too much nitrogen will produce weak stems, and fewer flowers.

Support is recommended. Either stake individual plants, or use horizontal support netting 12-18” off the ground. Plants tip over at ground level, not higher up on the plant. One layer of netting, securely fastened, is all that is needed.

Harvest when flowers are half to fully open. Use clean buckets, and clean water. Use a floral holding solution or chlorine tablet to help keep the water clean. Store in the cooler no more than a few days. Dahlia vase life may be shorter than other flowers. Use freshly cut dahlias in arrangements.

Cutting tall stems that include side shoots will cause more tall stems to grow. Cutting short stems will produce more short stems.

Tubers may be left in the ground in zone 8-9, or dug and stored in colder areas. Dig after the tops have been killed back by frost. Dig, clean, and then air dry tubers for several days. Store in a cool, dry area that does not freeze.

Rev. 08/2015