



# GROWING YOUR DAHLIA'S



**Common Name:** **DAHLIA**

**Botanical Name:** Dahlia hybrids

**Family Name:** Asteraceae

**Plant Type:** Tuberous Bulb **Size:** 75–150cm H

**Planting Time:** Spring to Early Summer

**Flowering:** Summer to Autumn

**Planting Width:** 60cm, **Depth:** 10cm

**Positioning:** Full Sun to Light Shade

**General Information:** Dahlias need to be protected from strong winds or staked in windy positions.

**Soil:** Rich, well drained with plenty of organic matter.

**Watering:** Regular watering during growth period however do not over water until the shoots appear.

**Fertilising:** Well-rotted animal manure should be worked through the soil prior to planting. Top dress with a complete fertiliser during the growing period. Too much Nitrogen can produce excessive leaf growth at the expense of the flowers.

**Pruning:** Can be left undisturbed for many years, however lifting and separating is best every second year in winter. Make sure tubers have some of the old stem attached as this is where the new growth will come from. Removing old flowers will promote further flowering.

**Dislikes** frost, under or over watering.

**Pests:** Snails and slugs, red spider, grubs or aphids. Treat as required. Powdery mildew can be a problem late in the season or if plants are too close together in humid conditions.

**Ideal for** cut flowers.

**Tips:** Staking may be required to stop plants from falling over. Picking the flowers will encourage a longer flowering period. When planting ensure 'eyes' of the tubers face