

How to...

Grow Dahlias



Dahlias are very easy to grow and will grow in nearly any location and almost any soil. To get the best results, make sure they are in a sunny site and sheltered from direct winds.

Preparation

The best time to prepare the soil is in the autumn or winter when you should dig compost and well rotted manure into the soil. Over the winter months, these will help the soil to break down and give the tubers a good start. In the spring, the soil will need to be dug over again and a granular feed like Growmore or bone meal can be added.

Planting

The tubers should be planted 5-6 inches deep and covered with 4-5 inches of soil taking care that none of the shoots are broken (*but if this happens the side shoots will grow to take over from the main shoot*). Do not add fertiliser when planting the tuber as this may damage the soft root system.

Growing On

Once the plants are growing and getting taller, they may need to be staked to prevent them from snapping. Remove any damaged foliage and make sure there is good air circulation around each plant stopping any fungal diseases from occurring. Make sure you use slug pellets to prevent any slug and snail damage.

Storing

Once the plants have finished flowering and the frost has started, cut the stems down to around 6 inches and leave until you are ready to lift them for the winter. Once lifted, cut out the old tuber that was last year's plant wash all the soil off and dry thoroughly, dusting them with yellow sulphur before storing them in a dry, cool, frost free place in the garage or shed.