



2025 DAHLIA TUBER STORAGE AND GROWING GUIDE

STORAGE

- Tubers need to be stored at a constant temperature, **ideally 40-50 F**; sometimes an unheated garage (as long as it doesn't dip below freezing!) can be a great spot
- If tubers freeze, they will rot and not be viable
- If tubers are stored at too high a temperature, they may start to sprout prematurely
- Moisture is important, but too much of a good thing is not a good thing!
 - The goal is to maintain the tuber as "near" to in the ground conditions at the end of the growing season; there are different storage strategies, the **two simplest** of which are:
 - Keeping your tubers in coarse vermiculite or wood shavings (think pet bedding), inside a plastic container with a lid, to capture moisture and keep it from escaping
 - Keeping your tubers in plastic bags/saran wrap, as long as they are not touching each other inside the plastic.
 - **Check tubers every 30 days** or so to ensure they look good!! If they are mushy, or appear to have any mold/rot, throw away the affected tubers immediately!

GENERAL GROWING TIPS

- **Plant outdoors once the risk of a hard freeze has passed** (typically very late April/early May)
- Plant **4-6 inches deep, horizontally, with the eye facing up**
- Make sure you mark which dahlia variety you have planted, if you are growing more than one type!
- Most dahlias will end up needing to be staked (or a tomato cage can work too); if you plan on driving stakes, it can be smart to do this at the time of planting
 - Drive stakes about 12-18 inches on either side of the tuber
- Watch and wait! This is the hardest part! **It can take some dahlias 30 days (or MORE!) to emerge above the soil surface.**
 - **Do NOT water them until you see sprouting above the surface!** The tubers store significant water inside, and can rot if they are being watered prior to sprouting
- After emerging, dahlias need to be watered if we have received less than an inch of rain in any 7-day period.
- They thrive in full sun but will tolerate some shade. If it is blistering hot and they are in full sun, they may benefit from a shade cloth, which can usually be canopied right on their stakes
- **Depending on when they were planted, you will likely start to see blooms by July, give or take!** They will continue to bloom until our first frost, often through most of October!
- Then it is time to dig them up, and divide them! Watch for the **Dahlia Dividing Workshop at the Farm late Fall!**

DON'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT WITH ANY QUESTIONS AT ANY POINT THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS! WE ARE HERE TO HELP!