



## Growing Dahlias with Success

Planting dahlias correctly is key to enjoying their beautiful blooms. Here's a breakdown of the process:

### 1. Timing is Important:

- Wait for Warmth:
  - Dahlias are sensitive to frost, so plant them after the danger of frost has passed and the soil has warmed. Typically, this is in late spring or early summer.
  - A good guideline is to plant them around the same time you'd plant tomatoes.

### 2. Preparing the Planting Site:

- Sunlight:
  - Choose a sunny location that receives at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day.
- Soil:
  - Dahlias prefer well-drained, fertile soil.
  - Amend the soil with compost or well-rotted manure to improve drainage and add nutrients.
  - If you have heavy clay soil, consider adding sand or other drainage improving amendments.

### 3. Planting the Tubers:

- Digging Holes:
  - Dig holes that are about 4 to 6 inches deep.
  - Spacing depends on the variety, but generally, space tubers 12 to 36 inches apart.
- Placing Tubers:
  - Lay the tubers horizontally in the holes, with the "eyes" (sprouts) facing upward.
- Covering Tubers:
  - Cover the tubers with soil and gently firm it down.
- Staking:
  - If you're growing tall varieties, it's best to insert stakes next to the tubers at planting time to avoid damaging them later.

### 4. Post-Planting Care:

- Watering:
  - Avoid watering immediately after planting, unless the soil is very dry. Overwatering can cause the tubers to rot.
  - Wait until you see sprouts emerge before you begin regular watering.
  - Once the plant begins to grow, give it deep waterings, especially during dry periods.
- Fertilizing:
  - Once the plant begins to show growth, then begin fertilizing. A fertilizer that is low in nitrogen, and higher in phosphorus and potassium is best.

### Key Considerations:

- Drainage:
  - Good drainage is essential to prevent tuber rot.
- Sunlight:
  - Dahlias thrive in full sun.
- Staking:
  - Provide support for tall varieties to prevent them from breaking.

By following these steps, you'll be well on your way to enjoying a beautiful display of dahlias.