

CULTURE ADVICE

Dahlia

Description:	These free flowering pot dahlias are characterized by a compact and bushy growth. Unlimited blaze of colour: red, orange-red, violet, light and dark pink, yellow and white. Ideal for the house and garden. They can be kept up to one month in a well-lighted room but should then be planted in the garden or on the balcony.
Potting:	10 / 11 cm pots; 55 - 48 plants/m ² , weeks 6 - 12
Substrate:	Loose substrate of type 2. pH 5.8 - 6.5 EC 1.5 - 2.,0 mS
Fertilization:	Moderately consumptive, apply 0.15 % complete fertilizer once a week. Since dahlias need much watering, make sure to water and fertilize them regularly. However, never cultivate them in too wet an environment. Start with an N-accentuated fertilizer, apply a well balanced fertilizer later.
Temperature:	12 - 16 °C (low temperatures extend the cultivation time).
Light:	Very bright; shade in case of strong sunlight only and directly after potting. Shade as from approx. 80 klx. Day length: 14 to max. 20 hours. If the day is less than 14 hours long, growth will decelerate, and tubers will start to form.
Flowering:	Starts late in April depending on light conditions (if no extra light is used).
Growth regulators:	Growth regulation is not necessary.
Pinching:	Normally not necessary if light intensity is high; in a dull spring, however, we recommend to lop once for a better side shoot formation and stronger plant build-up. Lopping delays flower formation by approx. 10 days.
Diseases / pest:	Mildew if air circulation is insufficient, Pythium in too wet an environment. Animal pest: thrips, plant lice, spider mites and miner flies.

Water balance is of importance; the plants must not stand too wet, danger of botrytis, damage to roots and irregular plant build-up are the consequences.

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