



How to Grow Dahlias

Native to the Andes of South America, dahlias are one of the showiest annual flowers. They range in size from the huge dinner plate size to the very petite pompon varieties.

At a Glance

Size: Huge dinner plate to petite pompom

Sun: Full to part sun

Soil-Garden: Amend soil with generous amounts of compost

Pots: Good quality potting soil

Water: Water regularly to keep soil evenly moist

Fertilizer: Regular application of organic water-soluble plant food

Where to plant: - Dahlias grow and flower best in sunny areas with well-drained soil. In Colorado most dahlias prefer a sheltered, morning sun location, although some varieties grow and bloom happily in full sun.

When to plant: Dahlias like warm weather, and will not tolerate a frost, so don't rush to plant them outside. If you want to get an early start, plant the tubers in one gallon pots about two to three weeks before the last frost date--late April to early May in the Denver area. Once they have sprouted, place under grow lights or in a sunny window (south-facing window is best). Once all danger of frost has passed, plant them gently in their garden location.

How to Grow: To plant, dig a large hole 6 to 12 inches deep, depending on the size of your dahlia. Add generous amounts of compost, or well-rotted manure and mix well into the bottom of the hole. Plant tubers 2 to 4 inches deep and 1 to 3 feet apart, depending on variety. Fill in with more compost and soil (a 50-50 mix). Growth begins in 14 to 20 days. Tall

varieties, such as dinner plate dahlias, will need support for the large heavy blooms. Stakes or cages work fine.

Check for moisture and water regularly especially during dry periods. Mulching with straw or bark helps retain moisture as well as suppress weeds.

Feed with an organic water-soluble plant food made for flowers. Fertilize regularly following package directions.