

Dahlias

PROVEN PERFORMERS!



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From House Beautiful

Dahlias will continue their meteoric rise in popularity in 2022, with this spectacular exotic flower exceeding more than 1.8 million posts on Instagram.

Hollie Newton, Chief Creative Officer at Sproutl, says the dahlia will steal the Instagram crown from the peony as the UK's favourite flower this year. *"Dahlias provide a season-long burst of spectacular blooms from mid-summer right through to the first frosts. They're also one of the best garden plants to grow for cut flowers - as they have a long vase life, but the more you pick them, the more they keep coming. An invaluable plant for any garden or in a patio container,"* Holly explains.

THE DAHLIA PLANT

DAHLIA TUBERS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Hardy in Zones 8 to 11
- Somewhat winter hardy in Zone 7 with well-drained soil and winter mulch
- Grown as an annual elsewhere or tuberous roots overwintered indoors
- Native to the mountains of Mexico and Central America
- They prefer 80-85°F (27-29°C) daytime and 65-70°F (18-21°C) night temperatures

It is a tuberous root with buds for new growth forming in fall

Can be grown with a single tuberous root and one bud or clump with several tuberous roots and buds

GROW DAHLIAS IN:

- Full sun or light shade for best flowering
- Fertile, well-drained soil
- Water thoroughly when needed
 - Avoid waterlogged or droughty soil
- 8 Tips for Growing Better Dahlias

Longfield Gardens

Longfield Gardens provides high quality flower bulbs and perennials to home gardeners. We offer plants for every region and every season, from tulips and daffodils to dahlias, caladiums and amaryllis.

Longfield Gardens is in business to help you enjoy a more beautiful yard and garden. Our family-owned company is located in Lakewood, N.J. and we have more than 80 years of combined experience in the horticulture industry. Selling bulbs and perennials is our passion as well as our livelihood.

We take pride in our products and in our service. As part of our commitment to quality products, we maintain our own trial garden for testing varieties and developing combinations. We also produce how-to articles, videos and blog posts so you'll have the information and inspiration you need to create a beautiful yard and garden.

Shop our online store at **longfield-gardens.com** and let us help you grow a more beautiful garden.



GROWING DAHLIAS IN HOT WEATHER

- Grow heat tolerant varieties
 - Akita
 - Babylon Red
 - Ben Huston
 - Belle of Barmera
 - Bishop of Llandaff
 - Blackberry Ripple
 - Cornel
 - Cornel Bronze
 - Ferncliff Copper
 - Hamari Gold
 - Kelvin Floodlight
 - Kidd's Climax
 - Lady Darlene
 - Lavender Perfection
 - Maarn
 - Mingus Alex
 - Otto's Thrill
 - Penhill Dark Monarch
 - Penhill Watermelon
 - Pooh
 - Rip City
 - Sandra
 - Senior Ball
 - Show 'n Tell
 - Spartacus
 - Tartan
 - Thomas Edison
 - White Perfection
 - Winkie Colonel
 - Vassio Meggos
 - Zorro
- Provide some midday and late afternoon shade
- Mulch
- Zones 9 & 10
 - Purchase tuberous roots in spring and store over summer in a cool, dry location
 - Plant in September for flowers in November and December
 - Cut back plants just above soil when yellow in December through January
 - New growth appears in February and second flush of blooms in April through May

WHERE TO GROW DAHLIAS

- Flowerbeds with other annual and perennial plants
 - Taller varieties in the back
 - Midsize in the middle of the bed
 - Bedding and Border dahlias in front
- Containers
 - Select container with drainage holes or self-watering pot
 - Use a quality potting mix
 - Full size and dinnerplate dahlias in a pot at least 18" x 18" (45cm x 45cm)
 - Border dahlias in a pot at least 12" x 12" (30cm x 30cm)
 - Reduce maintenance
 - Slow-release fertilizer applied at planting and midseason if needed
 - Incorporate Wool Pellets into the soil at planting or after the fact
 - ❖ Organic and sustainable
 - ❖ Reduces watering by 25%
 - ❖ Adds nutrients, organic matter and air space to the soil



About Melinda

Nationally known gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has over 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including Can't Miss Small Space Gardening, the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, and Jackson and Perkins' Beautiful Roses Made Easy. She hosts the nationally-syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" program airing on over 115 TV and radio stations throughout the U.S. Melinda also hosts the internationally distributed Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series, including the latest Food Gardening for Everyone DVD set. She is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine, writes the twice monthly "Gardeners' Questions" newspaper column and a nationally-distributed gardening column. She appears regularly as a guest expert on national and local television and radio shows.

Visit Melinda's website,
melindamyers.com

- Along fences or borders for screening
 - Tall varieties or grow in large container
 - Effective mid summer - fall
 - Earlier if started indoors
- Vegetable gardens
 - Soil and growing conditions for tomatoes perfect for dahlias
 - Harvest flowers for bouquets when picking vegetables
- Cutting garden
 - Just 3 to 6 plants provide plenty of blooms for you to use and share
 - More is even better
 - Include a variety of sizes and shapes
 - Longfield Gardens has collections for flower arrangements to make it easy
 - Check all dahlia collections and Flirty Fleurs collections
 - Pick flowers when at their prime
 - They do not continue to open once harvested
 - Cut before petals soften

HOW TO PLANT

- Starting indoors
 - 4 to 6 weeks before last spring frost
 - Place in 6 to 8" (15cm x 20cm) or 1-2 gallon pot
 - Set eye 2" (5cm) below soil surface
 - Grow in warm location with minimal watering
 - Move to sunny location or under artificial lights as soon as green appears
 - Begin regular watering when plants reach 2" (5cm) in height
 - Move plants into garden or outdoor containers after danger of frost has passed
- Planting directly in the garden
 - How to Plant Dahlias video
 - After last spring frost and when soil temperatures reach 60°F (16°C)
 - About the same time you plant your tomatoes
 - Plant tuberous roots 4" (10cm) deep
 - Eye (buds) pointed up and 1-2" (2.54cm - 5cm) below soil surface
 - 12 to 24" (30.5cm - 61cm) apart depending on the variety

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- Stake tall varieties at planting
 - How to Pinch and Stake Dahlias
 - You'll avoid damaging the tuberous root when installing
 - Stakes will be in place when the plants need them
 - ❖ One 6' (1.8m) stake per plant, sunk 8-10" in to the ground
 - Cages or corrals for larger plantings

ONGOING CARE

- Incorporate slow-release fertilizer into soil at planting
 - Make second application midseason, if needed
- Or fast-release fertilizer
 - First application when plants are 8 to 10" (20cm - 25cm) tall
 - Repeat as needed
 - Stop by September if overwintering plants in garden or tuberous roots indoors
- Water deeply at soil surface, if possible
 - Watering wand, soaker hose or drip irrigation
 - Reduces risk of foliar diseases
- Mulch the soil to keep roots cool and moist
- Pinch plants when 10" (25cm) tall or has 4 sets of leaves
 - Encourages fuller growth and more flowers
 - Delays flowering by about one week
 - How to Pinch and Stake Dahlias
- Dahlias flower about 10 weeks straight
 - Deadhead for tidier appearance and more flowers
 - Minimally - snip faded flowers
 - Better to cut faded flowers back to main stem
 - ❖ Promotes fuller growth and more flowers

TYPES OF DAHLIAS

DAHLIA FLOWER TYPES AND SIZES

TYPES OF DAHLIAS: 8 GREAT LOOKS

BEDDING DAHLIAS

- Grown from seeds or cuttings and treated like an annual
- Will form tuberous root over summer
 - Gardeners report inconsistent results from tuberous roots
- Available in a variety of colors, usually less than 1.5' (.45m) tall

SINGLE (Bishop of Dover shown)

- Single row of petals with prominent center
- 3-5" (7.5cm - 12.7cm) flowers
- Great for pollinators
- Typically 2-3' (.6m - .9m) tall

• TRIED & TRUE - HS Date

- Attracts pollinators
- Deep maroon-bronze leaves
- Wiry flower stem
- Open habit

PEONY FLOWER (Bishop of Llandaff shown)

- 2 or more layers of petals with prominent center
- 3-5" (7.5cm - 12.7cm) flowers
- Typically 2-3' (.6m - .9m) tall
- TRIED & TRUE - Fascination
 - Dark, almost black, leaves
 - Dark wiry stems
 - 4-5" (10cm - 12.7cm) fuchsia pink flowers
 - 30-36" (.76m - .9m) tall with an open habit

COLLARETTE (Pooh shown)

- Inner and outer row of petals of different length
- Open center
- 3-4" (7.5cm - 10cm) flowers
- Usually less than 30" (.76m) tall
- Size and flower type makes them great in bouquets
- TRIED & TRUE - **Kelsey Sunshine**
 - Pale yellow flowers with fringe of inner petals
 - Attracts pollinators
 - Dark stems
 - 36" (.9m) tall

ANEMONE (Lifestyle shown)

- Several rows of outer petals
- Pincushion of tubular petals in the center
- 3-4" (7.5cm - 10cm) flowers
- Great for bouquets
 - Combine nicely with other flowers
- Usually less than 30" (.9m) tall

POMPON (Moor Place shown)

- Perfectly round with tightly rolled petals
- 1-2" (2.5cm - 5cm) flowers
- Long lasting
- 36-40" (.9m - 1m) tall

BALL (Cornel shown)

- 3-4" (7.5cm - 10cm) perfectly round flowers
- Tightly rolled petals
- Long lasting
- 40" (1m) tall
- TRIED & TRUE - **Cornel Bronze**
 - Prolific and consistently 3-4" (7.5cm - 10cm) flowers
 - Long lasting and bruise resistant
 - 4' (1.21m) tall

- TRIED & TRUE - **Zundert Mystery Fox**
 - Prolific with 2-3" (5cm - 7.5cm) flowers
 - Flower color ranges from smoky pink to coral
 - Compact 3' (.9m) tall plants

DECORATIVE BORDER (Melody Pink Allegro shown with Caladium)

How to Grow Border Dahlias

- Gallery border dahlias 15-20" (38cm - 51cm) tall
- Melody border dahlias 24-36" (61cm - 76cm) tall
- 2-5" (5cm - 12.7cm) flowers

DECORATIVE (Great Silence shown)

- This group has the widest range of flower colors and styles
- Flat or curved petals
- 4-8" (10cm - 20cm) flowers
- Typically 3-4' (.9m - 1.21m) tall
- TRIED & TRUE - **American Dream**
 - Salmon pink with raspberry-violet center
 - Prolific bloomers with 5" (12.7cm) flowers
 - Long, dark flower stems
 - 36" (.9m) tall
- TRIED & TRUE - **Labyrinth**
 - Unique frilly 6" (15cm) flowers
 - Pale pink, peach and cantaloupe
 - 32" (.8m) tall
- TRIED & TRUE - **Milena Fleur**
 - Lots of 4-5" (10cm - 12.7cm) flowers
 - Soft salmon pink with pale yellow centers
 - Each blossom unique, appears as if colors painted on the petals
 - 24-30" (61cm - 76cm) compact plants
- TRIED & TRUE - **Rip City**
 - 5-6" (12.5cm - 15cm) velvety flowers
 - Outer petals raspberry with dark burgundy, almost black, center
 - Outer petals are longer with a twist
 - 36-40" (.9m - 1m) tall

CACTUS & SEMI CACTUS (Nut d' Eté shown)

- Partially or fully rolled petals
- 4-8" (10cm - 20cm) flowers
- 3-4' + (.9m - 1.2m+) tall
- **TRIED & TRUE - Karma Corona**
 - Prolific early bloomer
 - 5" (12.7cm) flowers
 - Luminous pale pink to peach with yellow center
 - Compact 36" (.9m) plant seldom needs staking

WATERLILY (Onesta shown)

- Relatively flat flower with closed center
- 3-5" (7.5cm - 12.7cm) flowers
- Rows of flat or slightly flat petals
- Typically 2-3' (.6m - .9m) tall

DINNERPLATE (Café au Lait shown)

How to Grow Dinnerplate Dahlias

- 8"+ (20cm+) flowers
- 4'+ (1.2m+) tall
- Showy flowers, only need a few for in impressive bouquet
- **TRIED & TRUE - Break Out**
 - Same size flower as Café au Lait
 - Similar look, but more consistent color
 - Tips gently rolled
 - 36-48" (1m - 1.2m) tall
- **TRIED & TRUE - Penhill Dark**
 - Huge 8-10" (20cm - 25cm) flowers
 - Twisted petals
 - Complex color of dusky rose, raspberry and peach with flashes of violet
 - 40-48" (1m - 1.2m) tall plant needs staking

COMMON PESTS

COMMON DAHLIA PESTS

- Healthy plants have very few insect and disease problems

SLUGS & SNAILS

- Like it cool, dark and damp
- Feed at night - eating holes in leaves
- Beer traps do work
- Sluggo and other organic slug and snail products
 - Active ingredient is Iron Phosphate
 - Not harmful to pollinators, birds and toads

EARWIGS

- Feed on leaves, buds and flowers
- They do feed on other insect pests
- Traps
 - Folks in Hamilton, Canada taught me this technique
 - Fill the cardboard core of a paper towel roll with straws
 - Wrap the outside with packing tape to weather-proof
 - ✦ Leave ends open
 - Lift in morning - covering both ends
 - Dump earwigs into soapy water
 - **Control Earwigs with DIY Trap**

TARNISHED PLANT BUGS

- Small, flattened insect with piercing, sucking mouth parts
- Cause misshapen flowers that don't open properly
- Parasitic wasps help control this pest
- Overwinter in leaf litter
 - Keep garden weeded
- **Summit Year-Round Spray Oil**
 - Organic contact insecticide
 - Can help manage the problem

THRIPS

- Very small insects with file-like mouth parts
- Scratch leaf and flower surfaces and lap up sap
- Feeding causes distorted leaves and flowers
- Can weaken plants and spread disease
- More of a risk on heat and drought stressed plants

SPIDER MITES

- A relative of spiders, not a true insect
- They have piercing-sucking mouth parts
- Feeding causes speckling and leaves eventually yellow and drop
- More common in hot, dry weather
- Strong blast of water
- **Summit Year-Round Spray Oil** if needed

POWDERY MILDEW

- Occurs with fluctuations in humidity
- More common in droughty summers
- The disease covers the leaves
 - Blocking sunlight
 - Causing leaf drop
- Reduce the risk
 - Proper spacing for air flow and sufficient sunlight reaching plants
 - Avoid excess nitrogen fertilizer
 - Lush growth more susceptible
- **Summit Year-Round Spray Oil** can protect uninfected leaves
- Remove and dispose of infected leaves and clean area at end of the season

BOTRYTIS BLIGHT

- Common during cloudy, wet weather
 - Flower buds turn brown or black and fail to open
 - Remove and dispose of infected plant part immediately

POST FLOWERING CARE

- **How to Lift and Store Dahlias for the Winter**
- **How to Overwinter Dahlias**
- **Storing Non-hardy Rhizomes, Tubers and Corms**

GARDENERS IN ZONES 2 TO 7

- Remove and compost plants and tuberous roots after frost
- Give to gardening friend and splurge on new varieties next year
- Or, label plants when you can still identify them
- After frost kills tops
 - Lift tuberous roots by digging 10-12" (25cm - 30cm) away from stems
 - Allow to air dry (warm and dry)
- Trim stems back to 1" (2.5cm)
- Place in bin and cover with sand, sawdust, vermiculite or peat moss
- Label
- Store in dark, 40-50°F (4.4-10°C) location

ZONE 7 GARDENERS

- Store tuberous roots for winter
- Or, try leaving them in the garden - risky
 - Must have good soil drainage and apply winter mulch

GARDENERS IN ZONES 8 TO 10

- Leave tuberous roots in the ground

A FEW OF YOUR FAVORITES

Brenda McCarthy

- **Ken's Rarity** - *Waterlily type*
 - 4" (10cm) pink and yellow flowers
 - 3.5' (1m) plants
- **Lubega Power Yellow & Orange Bedding** type

Carolyn is creating a cut flower garden with these dahlias:

- Thomas A. Edison
- Prince Noir
- Old Gold
- Tsuki Yori No Shisha
- Rosemary Webb
- Nita
- David Howard
- Café au Lait
- Little Robert
- Fascination (pictured)
- Glorie van Noordwijk

Jeff Trader

- **Ketchup & Mustard** - *Decorative type*
 - 6-8" (15cm - 20cm) flowers
 - Red petals with yellow tips
 - 4-4.5' (1.2m - 1.37m) tall

Nancy Cody

- **Café au Lait** blooms & in an arrangement

Lynn Thompson shared these favorites:

- Mychala Miranda
- Ala Mode
- Mero Star
- Bluetiful

- Waterlily
- Karma Series
 - Karma Prospero
 - Karma Amore
 - Karma Lagoon
 - Karma Gold

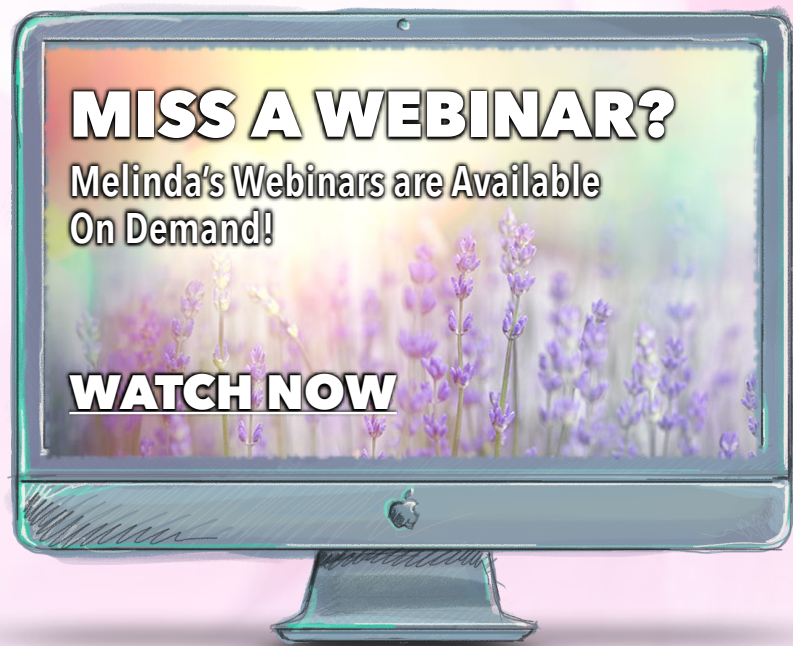
*"Longfield Gardens has one of my favorite dahlias, **Serkan**. The flowers are not big, but boy does that plant bloom."*

Anne Annis, garden designer for Eau Claire Golf and Country Club

- Features dahlias on the Number One tee
- Cuts and uses flowers in arrangements for the clubhouse
- Digs, labels and stores tuberous roots for winter
- **Mable Ball** - *Ball type*
 - 3" (7.5cm) flowers
 - Every bloom unique
 - 28" (.7m) tall
- **Powder Puff** - *Anemone type*
 - 4-6" (10cm - 15cm) flowers
 - 36" (.9m) tall
- **Fleurel** - *Decorative type*
 - 7-9" (17cm - 23cm) flowers
 - 3-4' (.9m - 1.2m) tall
- **Caribbean Fantasy** - *Decorative type*
 - 5" (12cm) flowers
 - Up to 44" (1.1m) tall
- **Zingaro** - *Decorative type*
 - 4-6" (10cm - 15cm) flowers
 - 18-24" (45cm - 61cm) tall

- **Mr. Optimist** - *Decorative type*
 - 5" (12cm) flowers
 - 32" (.8m) tall
- **Firepot** - *Waterlily type*
 - 3" (7.5cm) flowers
 - Compact 2' (61cm) tall
- **Aloha** - *Semi Cactus type*
 - Up to 8" (20cm) flowers
 - 44-48" (1.1m - 1.2m) tall
- **Tahiti Sunrise** - *Semi Cactus type*
 - 4-6" (10cm - 15cm) flowers
 - 30" (.76m) tall
- **Pinelands Princess** - *Semi Cactus type*
 - 7" (17cm) flowers
 - 36" (.9m) tall
- **Thomas A. Edison** - *Dinnerplate type*
 - 8" (20cm) flowers
 - 52" (1.3m) tall
- **Lady Darlene** - *Dinnerplate type*
 - 10" (25cm) flowers
 - 3-4' (.9m - 1.2m) tall
- **Show 'n Tell** - *Dinnerplate type*
 - 8-10" (20cm - 25cm) flowers
 - 3-4' (.9m - 1.2m) tall
- **Mom's Special** - *Dinnerplate type*
 - 8" (20cm) flowers
 - 4' (1.2m) tall
- **Grand Prix** - *Dinnerplate type*
 - 8-10" (20cm - 25cm) flowers
 - 3-4' (.9m - 1.2m) tall

- Mrs. Eileen - *Dinnerplate type*
 - 6-8" (15cm - 20cm) flowers
 - 3-4' (.9m - 1.2m) tall
- Lavender Perfection - *Dinnerplate type*
 - 8-10" (20cm - 25cm) flowers
 - 3-4' (.9m - 1.2m) tall
- Kelvin Floodlight - *Dinnerplate type*
 - 8-10" (20cm - 25cm) flowers
 - 30-42" (.76m - 1m) tall



UPCOMING APPEARANCES & WEBINARS

Check often as more appearances and webinars continue to be added.

March 1st

Michigan Green Industry Association's 35th Annual Trade Show & Convention

[More Information](#)

March 5th & 6th

Maryland Home & Garden Show

[More Information](#)

March 9th Webinar

[How to Plan Your Rain Garden](#)

March 10th Webinar

[Taking Your Veggie Garden to the Next Level](#)

March 15th Webinar

[How to Select Rain Garden Plants](#)

March 16th Webinar

[Gardening to Attract Birds](#)

March 18th & 19th

Lansing Home & Garden Show

[More Information](#)

March 24th Webinar

[All About Houseplants](#)

March 26th & 27th

REALTORS Home & Garden Show

[More Information](#)

March 31st Webinar

[Growing Nutritious Herbs & Vegetables in a Garden or Container](#)



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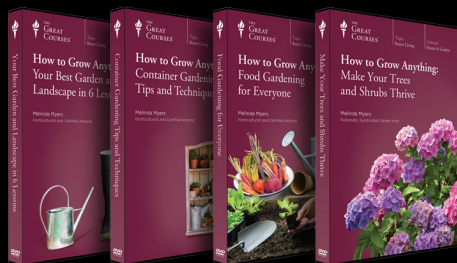
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

MONTHLY GARDENING CHECKLISTS & MORE

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Midwest Lawn Guides

Minnesota & Wisconsin Getting Started Garden Guide

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