



*Seattle Dahlia Society*



# Planting Instructions

Thank you for purchasing your tuber(s) and/or plant(s) from us! All funds collected will go towards the continuation of our society. Our goal is to grow, show and promote Dahlias as well as share the vast knowledge of our members. In this informational packet, you will find instructions on what to do with your tuber or plant now that the time for planting draws near.

## Step 1: Prepare the soil

Prepare the soil prior to planting. This includes the addition of nutrients, as well as the removal of rocks, roots of other plants and any weeds.

## Step 2: Plan out your flower bed

Plants should be 20"-30" apart depending on stake size and orientation of bushes. If working in a narrow bed, place plants or tubers in the middle.

If you plan to have multiple rows, then there should be about 24"-30" between plants and about 20" between rows. If you have slightly bigger dahlias, you can allow a little more space, but this is unnecessary if you plan to disbranch and disbud the bush.

Plant in a sunny location; Dahlias need at least a 1/2 day of sunshine!

## Step 3: Insert posts or stakes

Insert support system prior to inserting any plants or tubers. Inserting stakes at a later time may cause harm to your root system if the stake accidentally jabs the underground tuber.

a) If you are using thick posts that are more than 6" in circumference, then two plants can utilize the same post for stability. In this case, a plant or tuber can go 6" to either side of the post. Each post that supports two dahlia bushes should be about 30" apart.

b) Thin stakes can support one plant only, therefore it is fine to leave a 20" space between each stake/plant pairing. The plant or tuber can be placed in the ground about 6" to one side of the stake.



# Planting Instructions cont.



## Step 4: Planting

Dig a hole that is 6"-7" deep.

Tubers - Make the hole large enough to place the entire tuber inside. The tuber must lay flat and have no space underneath it; space underneath the tuber could cause the tuber to be damaged when soil is placed on top. The tuber **MUST** be placed in the ground with the eye facing up. Once the tuber is laying flat at the bottom of the hole, the hole may be gently filled with soil.



Identify the eye

Plants - Do NOT remove the plant from the pot, you need to preserve the fragile root system. Make the hole wide enough to fit the entire pot and deep enough to cover the pot and up to the first set of leaves. Place the entire plant with pot at the bottom and gently cover with soil.

- In the fall, remove the entire pot clump, clean off dirt and store over winter. Split off tubers with visible eyes in January.



Don't forget to label your Dahlia!!



Visit our website for information and updates on Seattle Dahlia Society events.  
[www.seattledahliasociety.org](http://www.seattledahliasociety.org)