



SPRING CARE



FLAMING ACRES
— DAHLIAS —

Watering at Planting

*Knowing When to Wait—
and Why It Matters*



One of the most common surprises for new dahlia growers is this: your newly planted tuber **does not need much water—yet**. In these early days, your dahlia is relying on the stored energy within the tuber itself.

Beneath the soil, it is quietly beginning the process of forming roots and preparing to send up its first shoot.

Adding too much water at this stage can actually do more harm than good. Dahlias prefer to start their journey in **warm, lightly moist—not wet—soil**.

Overwatering before growth appears can lead to rotting tubers, especially in cool or heavy soil.



THE GENTLE BEGINNING

After planting:



If your soil is already moist, simply allow nature to do its work—no watering needed.



If your soil is dry, give a light watering once to settle the soil around the tuber.



And then... wait.

This pause is intentional. It allows the tuber to root into the soil without being overwhelmed by excess moisture.



WHEN TO BEGIN WATERING

Your cue to begin a regular watering routine is simple:



When you see green growth emerge above the soil.

At that point, your plant is actively growing and ready to receive consistent, deeper watering.



EXCEPTIONS TO CONSIDER

There are a few situations where slight adjustments may be needed:



HOT CLIMATES

Soil may dry out more quickly, so a light initial watering may be helpful.



CONTAINERS OR RAISED BEDS

These tend to lose moisture faster and may require closer monitoring.



Even in these cases, the goal is still moderation—not saturation.



HOLD OFF ON MULCH

It may be tempting to cover your planting area with bark or mulch right away, but early warmth is essential for sprouting.

Wait until your dahlias are actively growing before adding mulch, so the soil can absorb the heat it needs.



WAIT TO MULCH



Warmer soil helps your tuber sprout and grow.



MULCH TOO EARLY



Mulch can slow soil warming and delay or prevent sprouts.



A little patience now brings beautiful blooms later.

Water less at planting, wait for growth, and then water deeply. Your dahlias will thank you with strong roots, sturdy stems, and an abundance of blooms.

