



PLANTING CALENDAR BY ZONE

UNDERSTANDING DAHLIAS



Dahlias are one of the most rewarding flowers a gardener can grow. With proper care, these mid-to-late summer bloomers produce armloads of colorful flowers from summer until the first frost.

This guide is designed to help you confidently plant and grow dahlias anywhere in the United States. Inside you'll find practical advice from our experience growing thousands of dahlias here at Flaming Acres. With a little patience, the right timing, and a watchful eye on the weather, dahlias will reward you with a spectacular season of blooms.

Understanding Dahlias

Dahlias grow from a tuber, which is a type of underground root that stores energy for the plant. Unlike flower bulbs such as tulips or daffodils that are typically planted in fall or winter, dahlia tubers are planted in the spring after the soil warms.

Dahlia tubers have a thin skin and prefer warm soil conditions. Planting too early in cold or soggy soil can cause tubers to rot before they begin growing. Once established, dahlias are vigorous plants that will bloom continuously with proper watering and fertilizing.

When to Plant Dahlias

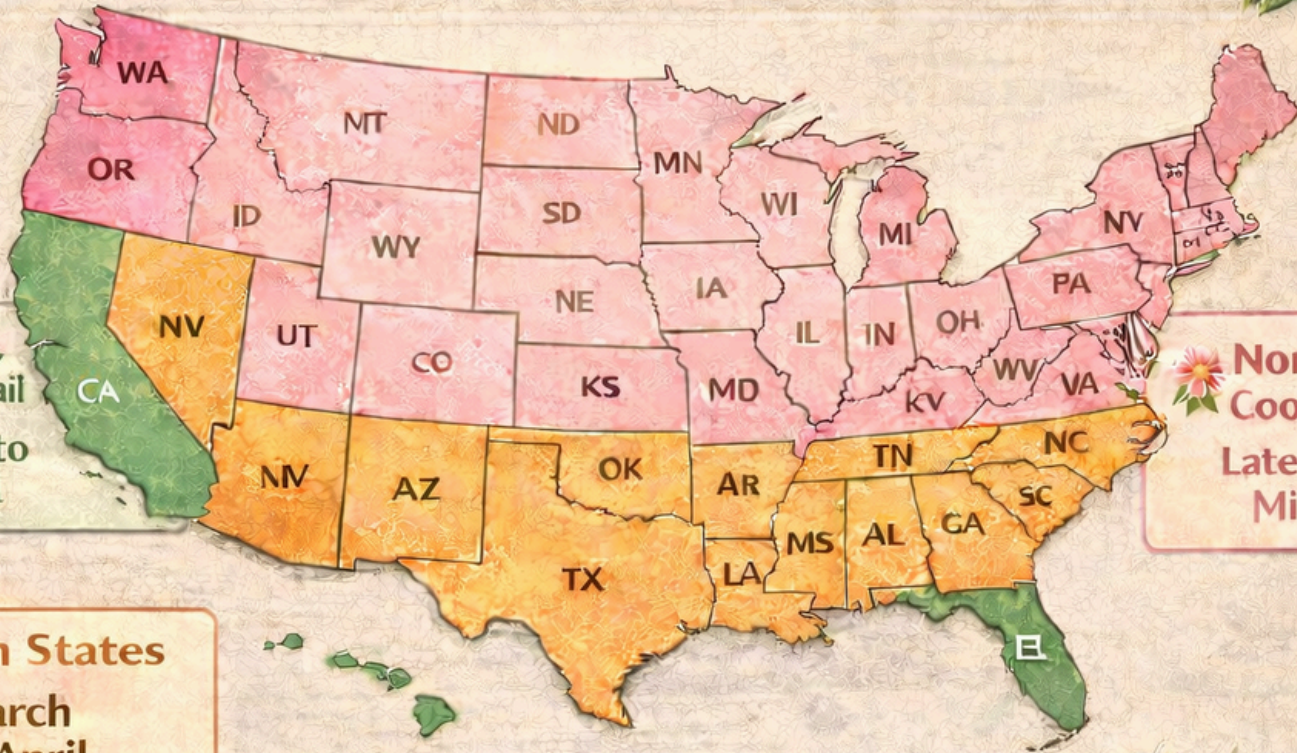
The most important rule for planting dahlias is warm soil. Dahlia tubers should be planted when:

- Soil temperatures are 60°F or warmer
- The danger of frost has passed
- Soil is not soggy or overly wet

A soil thermometer is one of the most useful tools a gardener can own. These inexpensive tools measure soil temperature at planting depth (typically 2–6 inches) and help determine the ideal planting time.

Soil thermometers are available in digital or analog styles and typically measure temperatures between 0°F and 220°F.

Dahlia Planting Schedule by Region



 **California, Florida, Hawaii**
Mid-March to Early April

 **Northern & Cooler States**
Late April to Mid-May

 **Southern States**
Late March to Mid-April

Wait until soil reaches about 60°F
& frost risk has passed



WHERE TO PLANT DAHLIAS

Dahlias love sunshine.



For the best flower production, dahlias should receive 6–8 hours of direct sunlight daily.
More sun generally means more blooms.

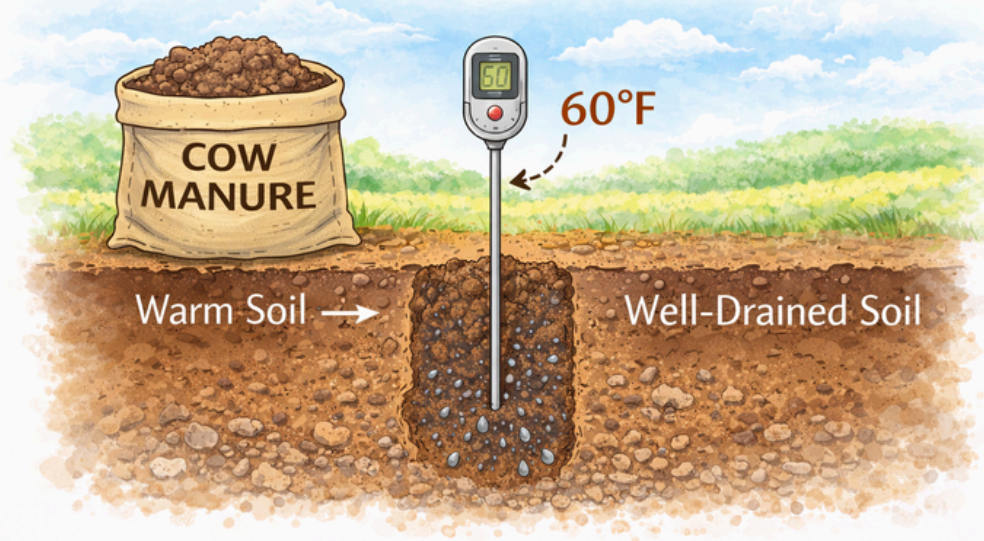
Choose a planting location that:

- Receives full sun
- Has good drainage
- Is protected from strong winds

Avoid planting too close to trees or shrubs, which compete for nutrients and sunlight.
Gardeners with partial shade may want to consider shorter or dwarf dahlia varieties.
In extremely hot climates, varieties with white or light-colored tips may occasionally experience sun burn.

PREPARING THE SOIL

Dahlias grow best in warm, well-drained soil.



Dahlias grow best in warm, well-drained soil.

At Flaming Acres Dahlias, we typically recommend planting directly in your existing garden soil rather than heavily amending beds with bagged topsoil or potting mixes.

Imported soils can sometimes contain herbicides or excessive fertilizer that may harm young plants.

Soil Tips

- Avoid planting in soggy soil
- Ensure soil drains well after rain
- Aim for a soil pH of 6.5–7.0 (slightly acidic)

If adjustments are needed:

- Lime raises soil pH
- Sulfur lowers soil pH

Always consult your local garden center or extension office for recommended application rates.

Soil Nutrients

One of the best natural soil amendments is well-aged cow or steer manure, which provides balanced nutrients.

If compost is used, apply sparingly. Many composts are high in nitrogen, which can cause tall, leafy plants with fewer blooms.

PLANTING DAHLIA TUBERS

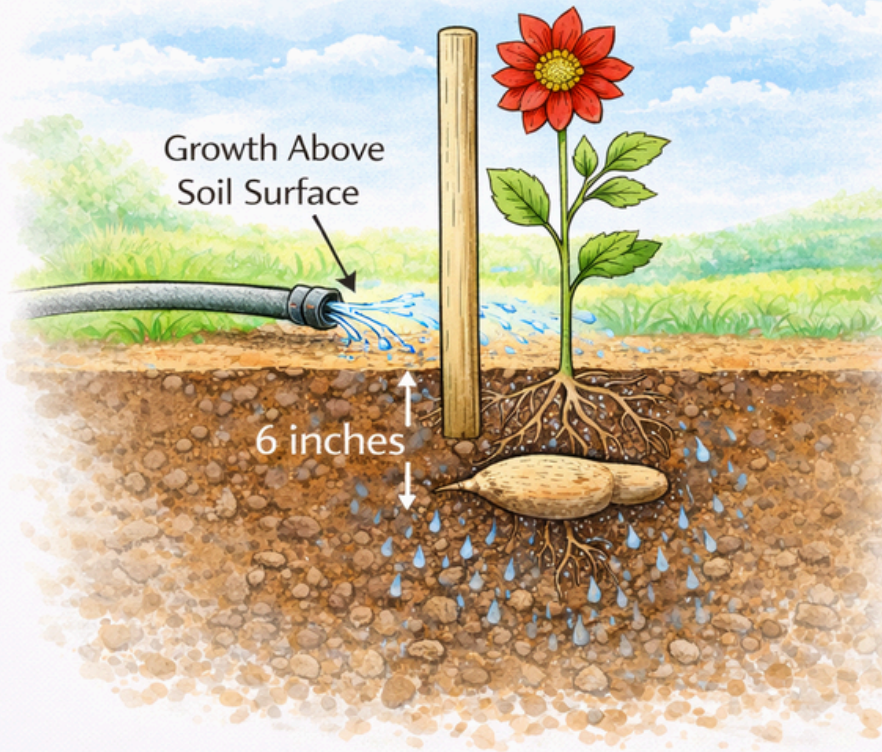
Dahlia tubers should be planted about 6 inches deep.



- 1 Dig a hole approximately 6 inches deep
- 2 Lay the tuber horizontally
- 3 If visible, position the growing eye facing upward
- 4 Cover the tuber completely with soil

WATERING YOUR DAHLIAS

Newly planted tubers should not be watered immediately unless the soil is very dry. Too much early moisture can cause tubers to rot before sprouting.



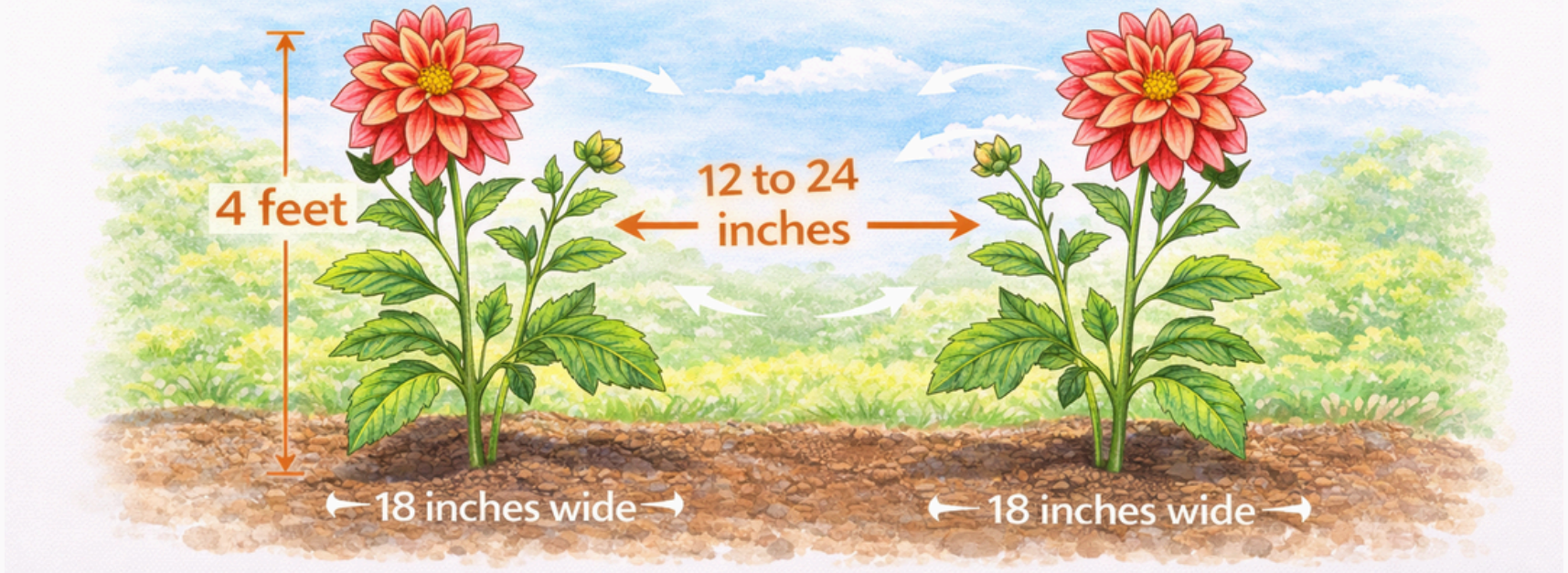
A healthy watering schedule typically includes:

- 🌿 Deep watering 3–4 times per week
- 🌿 Approximately 60 minutes per session using sprinklers or soaker hoses
- 🪴 Consistent watering helps develop strong plants and abundant blooms.

SPACING YOUR DAHLIAS

Proper spacing allows good air circulation and strong plant growth.
Recommended spacing:

12 to 24 inches apart A typical 4-foot dahlia plant spreads about 18 inches wide, so giving plants adequate space prevents overcrow-



FLAMING ACRES

DAHLIA TUBERS

At Flaming Acres Dahlias, we grow and sell field-grown, single-division tubers.

Our tubers are:

- ✓ Grown to maturity in our fields
- ✓ Carefully divided during fall harvest
- ✓ Stored all winter in controlled temperature and humidity conditions
- ✓ Shipped at the ideal time for planting in your region

Each tuber is carefully inspected for:

- ✓ Health and vitality
- ✓ Proper size and firmness
- ✓ Visible viable eyes



The **eye** is the growing point of the dahlia and is essential for the tuber to sprout.



LESSONS FROM FLAMING ACRES DAHLIAS

WHAT EVERY SEASON TEACHES US ABOUT GROWING DAHLIAS

A Farmer's Perspective

There is no single perfect formula for growing dahlias. Every season brings its own set of conditions — more rain, less sunshine, strong winds, unexpected storms, or stretches of intense summer heat. As farmers, we learn to watch the weather carefully and make small adjustments along the way. Gardeners quickly discover the same truth.

Your garden will become one of your greatest teachers. With patience, observation, and a little willingness to adapt, you will learn what your soil, climate, and plants need to thrive.

And when those first dahlia blooms begin to open — often in the warmth of midsummer — the reward is truly something special. Each flower is a reminder that the care you invested in the spring has blossomed into something beautiful.

We hope this guide helps you begin your dahlia season with confidence. We are grateful to have you as part of the Flaming Acres Dahlias community, and we cannot wait to see the gardens you grow.

Happy planting,
Dion & Debra Flaming
Flaming Acres Dahlias 🌸



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