



FLAMING ACRES
— DAHLIAS —



Rooted & Rising

*Strong Starts
Begin Here* ♥



A GUIDE TO EARLY DAHLIA CARE

*from first sprouts to strong,
healthy plants*

As your dahlias begin to grow, what you do next matters. *Rooted & Rising* walks you through the early days—when strong plants are formed and future blooms are set in motion.



WATER WITH CARE

Support early root development.



FEED FOR GROWTH

Fuel strong, healthy plants.



STAKE & SUPPORT

Guide structure from the start.



PINCH FOR FULLNESS

Encourage branching and blooms.



TIME YOUR BLOOMS

Shape the season ahead.

GROW STRONG. GROW WELL. GROW WITH CONFIDENCE. ♥ ONE SEASON AT A TIME.



SUMMER CARE



FLAMING ACRES
— DAHLIAS —

BLOOMING TIMES

*The Beauty of Waiting
for the First Bloom*



One of the most exciting moments in growing dahlias is seeing that very first bloom begin to open. But like so much in gardening, dahlias each unfold in their own timing.

GOOD THINGS
GROW WITH

Time

EVERY DAHLIA HAS ITS OWN TIMELINE



DWARF & EARLY VARIETIES may begin flowering in as little as

75
DAYS



MOST DAHLIAS will begin blooming about

90
DAYS



LARGER DINNERPLATE VARIETIES (8" OR LARGER) often take closer to

120
DAYS

TIMING CAN VARY BASED ON GROWING CONDITIONS. ♥



But here's the wonderful thing about dahlias...

Once they begin, they rarely stop.

From the first bloom of summer until the arrival of frost, dahlias continue producing armfuls of flowers, often becoming more beautiful with each passing week.



Bloom timing can vary greatly

depending on growing conditions. Warm weather, healthy soil, consistent deep watering, proper fertilizing, sunlight, and attentive care all play an important role in how quickly your plants grow and bloom.



So if your dahlias seem slow at first, don't lose heart.

Beneath the surface, roots are strengthening, stems are rising, and something beautiful is steadily being prepared.



PATIENCE TODAY, BLOOMS TOMORROW.

You are growing something beautiful. ♥





SUMMER CARE

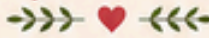


FLAMING ACRES
— DAHLIAS —

SUMMER WATERING

Part One

Deep Roots Begin with Deep Watering



When dahlias struggle to grow, wilt in the heat, or produce fewer blooms than expected, watering is often the reason.

One of the most common misunderstandings for beginner growers is *when and how* dahlias actually need water.



At planting time, dahlias usually require very little watering in most climates. In fact, overly wet soil before sprouting can sometimes lead to rot rather than growth. During these early days, the tuber is quietly preparing beneath the surface, waiting for warmth and the right conditions to awaken.



The exception is in especially hot, dry regions where the soil dries quickly. In those climates, a light watering about once a week may be helpful until sprouts emerge above the soil.



For many gardeners, natural spring moisture and rainfall are often enough to help dahlias get started.



But once your dahlias sprout and begin actively growing, their watering needs change dramatically.



Dahlias develop large, thirsty root systems that need moisture to reach deep beneath the soil surface. Shallow watering only dampens the top layer of soil, encouraging weak roots and stressed plants.



Strong dahlias are built through deep watering. Once established, dahlias typically require deep watering three to four times each week, allowing moisture to soak approximately 8–10 inches into the soil where the roots can truly access it. Sprinklers or soaker hoses running for 45–60 minutes are often ideal—and during the hottest weeks of summer, even longer watering sessions may be necessary.



Hand watering alone is usually not enough to sustain healthy, vigorous plants through the heat of the growing season.

DEEP WATERING MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

- Water 3–4 times per week once established
- Water 8"–10" deep so moisture reaches the root zone
- Run sprinklers or soaker hoses for 45–60 minutes (or longer in extreme heat)
- Avoid shallow watering—deep roots need deep moisture

THE GOAL IS NOT SIMPLY WET SOIL.

The goal is deep roots, sturdy stems, and abundant blooms that can thrive through the long days of summer.



WATER DEEPLY. WATER WISELY.
Stronger roots today, more blooms tomorrow.



SUMMER WATERING

Part Two

GROWING DAHLIAS IN CONTAINERS & RAISED BEDS

Dahlias can absolutely be grown in containers and raised beds, but they do require a little more attention and care than dahlias planted directly in the ground.

GOOD THINGS
GROW WITH

Time



IN GENERAL

Dahlias tend to grow larger, stronger, and more easily in garden soil. Containers dry out much faster, which means watering and fertilizing become especially important throughout the growing season.



BEST CHOICE FOR CONTAINERS

Low-growing dwarf varieties are usually the best choice. They are more manageable, require less staking, and adapt more naturally to smaller growing spaces.



RAISED BEDS

Nearly any dahlia variety can be grown successfully in a raised bed or large container with proper care.

♥ Raised beds should be at least 12 inches deep for healthy roots and good drainage.



EARLY PLANTING STAGE

After planting, keep the soil slightly damp or cool to the touch—but never soaking wet.

Overwatering before sprouts emerge is one of the most common causes of tuber rot.



AFTER SPROUTS EMERGE

Watering needs increase. Container-grown dahlias often need daily watering in warm weather.

Once plants reach about 12 inches tall, their need for water and nutrients increases significantly.



FEED TO FLOURISH

Fertilize every 2–3 weeks to support healthy growth and strong blooms. Nutrients wash out more quickly from containers and raised beds.



WATERING GUIDELINE

Raised beds need more frequent watering than in-ground dahlias, but less often than containers. They drain more freely and dry out faster than garden soil, but not as quickly as pots.



THE KEY IS CONSISTENCY

Healthy container dahlias depend on steady moisture, proper drainage, regular feeding, and attentive care throughout the summer season.

CONTAINERS vs. RAISED BEDS



CONTAINERS

- ♥ Dry out fastest
- ♥ Need daily watering in warm weather
- ♥ More frequent fertilizing and care
- ♥ Great for patios, small spaces, and mobility



RAISED BEDS

- ♥ Drain more freely than containers
- ♥ Need more water than in-ground plantings
- ♥ Less often than containers, but more than the garden



With a little extra attention, even small growing spaces can become overflowing with beautiful blooms.

DEEP ROOTS. STEADY MOISTURE. BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS.

Nurture today, bloom all summer long.



SUMMER CARE

FLAMING ACRES
— DAHLIAS —

FERTILIZING DAHLIAS FOR SUCCESS

Feeding for Blooms, Not Just Leaves



Dahlias are vigorous growers, but the way you feed them greatly affects how they perform throughout the season. The goal is not simply large leafy plants—it's **strong roots, sturdy stems, healthy tubers, and abundant blooms.**

GOOD THINGS
GROW WITH

time



START WITH HEALTHY SOIL

Before planting, enrich your soil with well-aged cow or steer manure or rich compost. Mixing organic matter into the top layer improves drainage, supports root development, and slowly releases nutrients as your dahlias grow.



DON'T FERTILIZE TOO EARLY

Dahlias do not need fertilizer at planting time. Allow the tuber time to establish roots and begin active growth first. Once your dahlias are growing well—typically about **30 days** after planting—you can begin a regular feeding schedule throughout the season.



USE THE RIGHT FERTILIZER

Dahlias perform best with fertilizers that are low in nitrogen and higher in phosphorus and potassium.

Good fertilizer choices include:

- 5-10-10
- 0-20-20



THESE BLENDS ENCOURAGE

- ♥ More blooms
- ♥ Stronger root systems
- ♥ Healthier tuber development for the following season



WHAT TO AVOID

Too much nitrogen can create tall, leafy plants with fewer flowers and weaker stems.



EASY TO REMEMBER

Nitrogen grows leaves.
Phosphorus and potassium support flowers and roots.



FEED THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

During the growing season, fertilize every few weeks using a balanced, low-nitrogen fertilizer to keep your plants healthy and blooming steadily.

A SIMPLE FEEDING GUIDE



BEFORE PLANTING

Work in aged manure or compost.



30 DAYS AFTER PLANTING

Begin fertilizing once your plants are growing well.



DURING THE SEASON

Feed every few weeks with low-nitrogen fertilizer.



BEST RATIOS

5-10-10
or 0-20-20

REMEMBER:

The right balance makes all the difference.



TOO MUCH NITROGEN

Lots of leaves,
few blooms



THE RIGHT BALANCE

Strong plants,
beautiful blooms



A GENTLE WAY TO SUCCESS

Fertilizing dahlias is not about forcing rapid growth—it's about providing steady support. Start simple, observe your plants, and adjust as needed. With consistent care and the right nutrients, your dahlias will reward you with stronger plants and armfuls of beautiful blooms throughout the season.

NOURISH THE ROOTS. SUPPORT THE PLANT. ENJOY THE BLOOMS.

Happy growing!



SUMMER CARE

FLAMING ACRES
— DAHLIAS —

TOPPING & PINCHING DAHLIAS

*Encouraging Stronger Plants
& More Blooms*



A LITTLE CARE
TODAY,
BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS
ALL SEASON

One of the best things you can do for taller dahlia varieties is to pinch or "top" the plant early in the growing season.

For dahlias that typically grow 3 feet tall or larger, topping encourages the plant to become shorter, sturdier, and bushier rather than tall and leggy. This process also helps develop stronger stems and often produces better stem length for cutting flowers throughout the season.

1 TOPPING IS SIMPLE!

Once your dahlia plant reaches about 18–20 inches tall—or has developed at least three sets of leaves—pinch or cut the center growing shoot just above the third set of leaves.

This is only done once.

Removing the center shoot signals the plant to send out multiple side branches, ultimately producing more blooms and a fuller, healthier plant.

Pinch or cut just above the third set of leaves.



THE RESULT

Multiple side branches grow, creating a bushier plant with more blooms!



BEFORE TOPPING

Tall & leggy



AFTER TOPPING

Shorter, sturdier & bushier



2 DEADHEAD REGULARLY

Remove odd, faded, or dry blooms to encourage the plant to keep producing fresh flowers. Consistent deadheading extends blooming throughout the season.



Less energy on seed production, more energy for beautiful blooms!

3 DON'T BE AFRAID TO TRIM

If your dahlia becomes too large, leggy, or starts crowding other plants, trim it back lightly to maintain shape and airflow.



BEFORE
Too tall & unruly



AFTER TRIMMING
Neater, healthier & better airflow

4 DAHLIAS ARE RESILIENT!

With a little thoughtful pruning and care, your dahlias will reward you with strong growth and armfuls of gorgeous blooms all season long.



QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



TOPPING

At 18–20" tall or after 3 sets of leaves, pinch just above the third set of leaves. Do this once.



DEADHEAD

Remove odd blooms regularly to encourage continuous blooming all season.



TRIM

Cut back if plants become too large or unruly. Maintain shape and airflow.



RESULT

Stronger stems, bushier plants, more blooms, and better flowers for cutting!

Remember:
A little pinch,
a littler care,
a garden full
of joy!

STRONG PLANTS. MORE BLOOMS. ALL SEASON LONG.

Happy growing!



STRONG PLANTS

BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS



STAKING DAHLIAS

Supporting Strong Stems Through the Season



TALL BLOOMS NEED SUPPORT

Many dahlia varieties grow surprisingly tall and heavy during the summer months—especially larger decorative and dinnerplate varieties. Without support, strong winds, heavy blooms, or even deep watering can cause stems to lean, bend, or break.



STAKE EARLY FOR THE BEST RESULTS

For this reason, it is recommended that dahlias expected to grow 3 feet tall or taller be staked early in the season.



THE BEST TIME? AT PLANTING TIME.

Adding stakes before the tuber begins actively growing helps avoid accidentally damaging or puncturing the tuber later. It also allows the plant to grow naturally alongside its support from the very beginning.

A little support now leads to a season of strong stems and beautiful blooms!

THERE IS NO SINGLE "PERFECT" STAKING METHOD.

Many gardeners successfully use:

BAMBOO STAKES



METAL RODS OR REBAR



TOMATO CAGES



WOODEN STAKES



CORRALLING WITH TWINE OR NETTING



The goal is simply to provide strong, steady support as the plant grows taller and begins producing blooms.

TIE LOOSELY AS DAHLIAS GROW



As dahlias grow, loosely tie the main stems to the support using soft garden ties, twine, or plant clips.

Avoid tying stems too tightly, as dahlias continue to expand quickly during the growing season.

SUPPORT MATTERS MORE THAN YOU THINK



Staking may not seem important early in the summer when plants are still small.

But by midsummer, healthy dahlia plants can become large, full, and surprisingly heavy—especially after rain or irrigation.

Proper support helps protect the plant from breakage while also improving airflow and keeping blooms upright and beautiful for cutting and enjoying in the garden.

STRONG SUPPORT = STRONGER PLANTS

WITHOUT SUPPORT

Stems can lean, bend, or break.



WITH SUPPORT

Plants stay upright, healthy, and beautiful.



THINK OF STAKING AS HELPING YOUR DAHLIAS STAND TALL THROUGH THE SEASON.

A little support early on can make a tremendous difference later.



STRONG ROOTS. STRONG STEMS. STUNNING BLOOMS.

Happy Growing!



SUMMER CARE

FLAMING ACRES DAHLIAS

WEED CONTROL

Protecting Healthy Dahlias Through the Season



Healthy dahlias begin with healthy growing conditions—and that includes keeping weeds and pests under control throughout the season.



WEED CONTROL

Hand weeding is one of the safest and most effective ways to manage weeds around dahlias.



Because dahlias are sensitive plants, it is strongly recommended that you avoid spraying weed killers directly around them whenever possible. Herbicides can easily drift onto nearby foliage, damaging or even killing healthy plants.



PREVENT SPRAY DRIFT

Protect your dahlias by keeping herbicides away from foliage, stems, and roots.



A good rule to remember is this:

If weeds cannot grow in the soil, your dahlias likely will not thrive there either.



If you choose to use products such as Roundup® or other weed-control sprays in nearby areas, use extreme caution.

Always prevent spray drift from reaching dahlia foliage, stems, or roots, and carefully read all product labels and application instructions before use.

ALWAYS FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS

Read all product labels and application instructions before use.



Mulching and regular hand weeding are often the safest long-term approaches for maintaining healthy garden beds while reducing weed pressure naturally.



→ BENEFITS OF HAND WEEDING & MULCHING ←

<p>SAFER FOR YOUR PLANTS No risk of chemical drift or damage to dahlia foliage.</p>	<p>HEALTHIER SOIL Supports beneficial microbes and soil life.</p>	<p>STRONGER BLOOMS Healthy plants produce more and better flowers.</p>
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A LITTLE CARE TODAY LEADS TO *Beautiful Blooms Tomorrow*

Healthy soil. Healthy plants. Beautiful blooms!



SUMMER CARE



FLAMING ACRES
— DAHLIAS —

PEST CONTROL

*Protecting Healthy Dahlias
Through the Season*



Preventative pest control is one of the best ways to keep dahlias healthy and blooming beautifully throughout the summer.



Rather than waiting until insects become a major problem, many growers follow a regular spraying schedule every two to three weeks during the growing season.



Any insecticide labeled as safe for vegetables, roses, or flowering plants generally works well for dahlias when used according to label directions.



THE MOST COMMON PESTS THAT AFFECT DAHLIAS INCLUDE:

- ♥ Aphids
- ♥ Thrips
- ♥ Leaf miners
- ♥ Stem borers



Early prevention is far easier than treating a severe infestation later.



Organic sprays and natural products can work very well as preventative treatments, especially when used consistently early in the season. However, once heavy infestations develop, stronger control methods are sometimes necessary to fully protect the plants.



Regularly inspecting your dahlias for curled leaves, chewing damage, discoloration, or insects hiding beneath foliage can help you catch problems early before they spread.



A little attention throughout the season goes a long way toward keeping your dahlias healthy, vigorous, and blooming beautifully all summer long.

KNOW YOUR ENEMIES

APHIDS



Small, soft-bodied insects that suck sap and can cause distorted growth.

THRIPS



Tiny, slender insects that cause silvery streaks and damaged petals.

LEAF MINERS



Larvae that tunnel inside leaves, leaving winding white trails.

STEM BORERS



Larvae that bore into stems, weakening plants and causing breakage.

PREVENTION IS KEY



Inspect regularly



Keep plants clean & healthy



Water properly—
not overhead



Provide good
airflow



Spray on a
schedule



*Healthy plants
are nature's best
defense!*



A LITTLE CARE TODAY LEADS TO
Stunning Blooms All Summer Long!



SUMMER CARE



FLAMING ACRES
— DAHLIAS —

GROW WITH *Confidence*

The Beauty of Tending What You've Started



By now, your dahlias are no longer hidden beneath the soil. They are rising, stretching toward the sunlight, growing stronger with each passing week. And as the garden grows, so does the gardener caring for it.



SUMMER IS THE SEASON OF TENDING.

- Of watering deeply.
- Feeding faithfully.
- Supporting stems before they bend.
- Watching closely for signs of stress, pests, or growth.

And somewhere in the middle of all that care, something beautiful begins to happen.



CONFIDENCE QUIETLY TAKES ROOT.

- What once felt uncertain slowly becomes familiar.
- You begin noticing the rhythm of your plants.
- You recognize what healthy growth looks like.
- You learn to trust your instincts a little more with each passing bloom.



THERE WILL STILL BE CHALLENGES ALONG THE WAY.

- A broken branch.
- A missed watering.
- A pest problem you didn't expect.
- A season that doesn't unfold exactly as planned.



BUT GARDENING HAS NEVER BEEN ABOUT PERFECTION.

- It's about learning.
- Adjusting.
- Growing alongside the flowers you care for.



Dahlias are remarkably resilient plants. With thoughtful attention and steady care, they continue reaching upward—producing beauty again and again throughout the season.



AND PERHAPS THAT IS PART OF WHAT MAKES GARDENING SO MEANINGFUL.

- It reminds us that growth is rarely instant.
- Strength is built slowly.
- Beauty is nurtured over time.

SO CONTINUE TENDING YOUR GARDEN WITH PATIENCE AND JOY.



Because this is about more than flowers.



It is about creating beauty where you are.



Cultivating peace in ordinary moments.



And learning that even small acts of care can grow into something extraordinary.



AND ONE DAY,
AS YOUR GARDEN OVERFLOWS
WITH BLOOMS, YOU MAY REALIZE...

*You didn't just grow dahlias.
You grew confidence, patience,
and joy alongside them.*



PATIENCE TODAY, BLOOMS TOMORROW.
You are growing something beautiful.

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