

Dahlia Culture Guide

Botanical name : *Dahlia hybrid*
Origin : Mexico and Guatemala

Use

Cut flower, Garden plants

Propagation

Rooted young plants

Planting

August to September for Winter production
April to May for Summer production.

Fertilization

Manure : 200kg/a Basal : N:P:K = 1.0:1.5:1.0/a
Additional : N:P:K = 0.4:0.5:0.4/a (Use a slow-release fertilizer). Give additional fertilizer after the 1st flash.

Temperature day/night

Optimum temperature is 20-25 degrees Celsius.
Keep minimum of 10 degree at night.

Light

Keep a day length of 14 hours to regulate flower bud initiation. Winter production does require lighting and heating to prevent single flowers.

Planting space

40cm x 30cm, 2 rows, 4 plants/m²
High density will result in less stems per plant.

Netting

3 layers of support netting are recommended.
30cm x 30cm minimum

Soil

pH 6.5~7.0
Well drained and well aerated medium of soil pH at mild acid.

Common Disease and Pest

Spider mites, Aphids, Cutworms, Armyworm, Thrips, Tobacco budworm, Slug, Virus, Bacterial soft rot, Petal blight, Powdery mildew.

Harvest / Post Harvest

With ideal temperature, you can harvest first cut flowers in 60 to 75 days after planting. Harvest when a flower opens 50-60%. Harvest in the morning or evening when the temperature is cooler, ideally in the morning of the shipping day. Treat cut flowers with a bactericidal post harvest treatment like Chrysal Bulbosus.



Left:Water

Right:Treated with Bulbosus

Four days after the harvest

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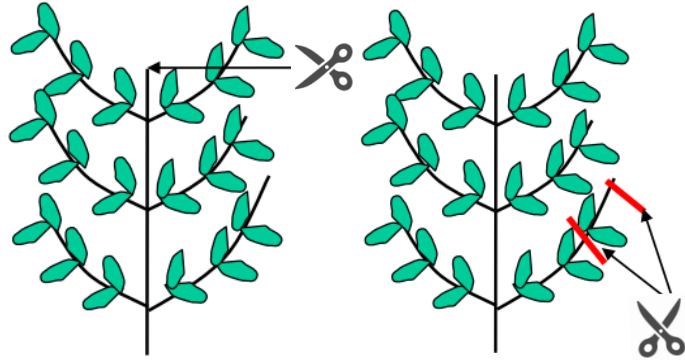
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Pinching

1-2 flower shoots will appear from each internodes and stem count is controlled depending on how many internodes are left when pinch.

Pinch the top shoot leaving 3 nodes when the plant reaches 4 internodes size. Leave 2-3 nodes when harvest the 1st flashes for the next harvest. Leave less count of nodes as harvest continues and plants become taller. When the plant reaches 100cm tall, cut back to the size of 20-30cm. However, the growth will be slowed down when cut back under low temperature condition.

«Large Flower Varieties»



1st pinching leave three internodes on the main stem.

After 1st flash leave two or three internodes on the second stem.

Disbudding

Side shoots are recommended to disbudded for quality cut flowers. Side shoots also cause delay in flowering time. Top 3 nodes of the expected cut flower should be disbudded.

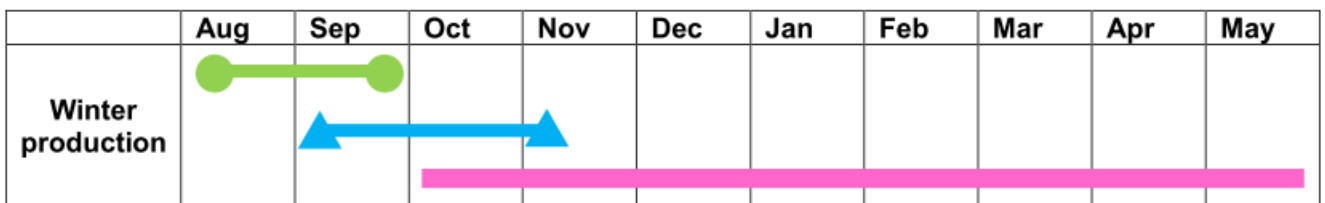
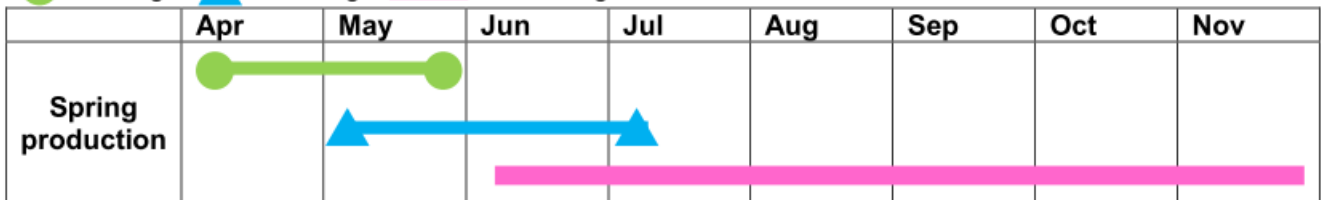


Disbudding helps the top flower grow well and bigger.

Culture Schedule

Production Schedule

● Planting ▲ Pinching ■ Flowering



* Production Schedule is based on Japanese condition with 14 hours lighting/day and 10 °C heating minimum in Winter.

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Troubleshooting

Single Flower occurs in shortage of day length, keeps too many stems on plant and poor fertilizer.

Shorter plant height may caused by shortage of day length.

Powderly Mildew prefer plants with too much nutrition.

Damping Off can be preventable by soil disinfection.

Premature flowering can often be caused by shortage of day length. Applying artificial lighting to 14hours/day is effective.

Virus prefers older plants and spread easier by insect bites.

Yellowish leaves can be the sign of nutrition deficiency other than virus. Apply additional fertilizer often works.