What they need

- Well draining soil
- 6.5-7 ph
- Planting soil temp at 60*
- More sun = more blooms
- Low nitrogen fertilizer, if any
- Always rotate your dahlia crop every year
- Monitor pest control
- Trellis them!
Bed Prep

Aerate your soil

Raised beds
  Simple methods:
    Rake
    Tillie (video) measure your bed width and Tillie to hill sides and create your raise bed.
    Tilther to smooth out the top of your bed, shallow tillage.
  BCS : a number of attachments including Rotary Plow, Power Harrow, Straight Bar with Hiller/Furrower
Aerate your soil.

Get rid of compaction.
Allow for good drainage.
Achieve a better root and tuber development.
Helps with irrigation and any fertilizing.

To aerate:

Broadfork 520

Bicycle pump .....

...
Warming up Tubers
Take them out of storage roughly one month before planting. Get those eyes going! Allow them to warm up inside without direct sunlight, if in a greenhouse then cover with shade cloth so they don’t dry out.
Planting Tubers

Soil temp 55-60F to start.

Growing on air temp 60-75F. Doesn’t tolerate any frost!

Your trench should be at least 4” deep, typical tuber distance is 6” apart...... we plant ours one right after the other.

We use a one row per bed system outside field grown, in a tunnel two rows per 30” bed.

I prefer one row system for trellising an tuber clean up.
Label

- Keep track! Name, date planted, how many tubers
- If you plan to sell these .......
  No one wants a mislabeled tuber
- Wooden stakes, sharpie
- Tag unknown with orange flagging tape
When to water in tubers

Soil should have good drainage! If they are set in a space that holds water the tubers will rot.

Once the tuber is set in your planting bed you want to dampen the soil, no not soak them. You’re just giving them enough moisture so they don’t shrivel in the soil. Delicate balance.

Once you see roughly 4” of plant growth give them a light watering. Increase watering every week as the plant grows.
EASY TRELLISING

- 4' wooden grade stakes

- Placing one at the beginning of the bed, then nearly every 6 feet, until the end of the bed. Stakes are placed right in the row, not along side it!

- Using tomato twine, begin by wrapping the first stake and tying it, then pulling it taught along the side of the plants to the next stake, wrapping around the stake then continuing this pattern until the end of the bed. All along using tension and making sure the plants are “held in”.

- You can weave the twine using the “S” pattern in between the plants along one side then returning to the beginning by weaving and making sure each plant is “held” on both sides. This is for extremely heavy plants like Cafe’s that need the extra support.

- Begin your first trellis about a foot off the ground, then every foot or so above after that. Usually a bed will have three sections of twine for good support and will get you to the end of the season without stress.
Dahlias drink plenty of water. Set your field with drip irrigation, this will prevent disease. You’re watering the soil and not the plant.

Monitor alongside rainfall and air temps. Fields are set 2 to 3 times a week while tunnel dahlias may receive 4 times a week.

Do a soil test. Add a good compost to field. We rotate our dahlia field every year. We give our plants a boost of Nitrogen in the beginning first 2 to 3 weeks, then we stop.

Tons of different studies on fertilizing dahlias..... the NPK breakdown; N NITROGEN will give a nice boost to your leafy growth stage, bulks it up. P PHOSPHORUS increase blooms K POTASSIUM vigorous growth.
- Harvest early
- Cut long stems, sacrifice buds
- Cut at 3/4 open, back petals are not flying back, center of eye is tight. BUDS WILL NOT OPEN.
- Clean buckets, cool water
- Place in shade as harvest continues
- Refill with water before placing in cooler
- Cooler is set at 42
- Reset the water before market
- Keep flowers under tent at market
- Get to wholesaler asap
- Dahlia types have different holding stages/vase life
- Talk to your customers
PESTS AND DISEASE

- Botrytis Blight - fungus caused by lack of air flow.
- Japanese Beetles - munchers/destroyers
- Tarnish Plant Bug - deform buds
- Cucumber Beetles
- Potato Leafhoppers
- Grasshoppers
- Aphids
- Mosaic virus - yellowing and stunting foliage/plant DAHLIA.ORG

Local Extension office
dahlia.org
Neem Oil
Organza Bags
KNOW WHEN TO DIG
• PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR QUESTIONS. WATCH THE WEATHER, NOT SOCIAL MEDIA

ENVIRONMENT
• DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU WILL PUT THEM ONCE THEY ARE ALL DUG.

STORAGE
• DON’T SET IT AND FORGET AND FORGET IT.

Before frost sets in, get rid of any plants that have viruses, these will never hold in storage and why keep a diseased tuber?
THE CURING PROCESS

Leave about 4-6” of stem to help you pull them out of the ground. Don’t leave them any longer than this or they will collect more water and cause rot. Also make sure you have proper labeling!! Before you place them for storage you want to cut the stem completely down to the base. Make sure you label the container!
Begin with the broadfork straight up and down about 4-5” away from the center of the plant. Break the bed and the root system, then lift underneath your clumps.
After pulling them out the next step is to make sure you can get as much soil off the clumps as possible. This is your WASHING STAGE.

At SKYFALL we do not wash with water. We let the sun dry out any wet soil and then gently tap the soil off. Be sure to check underneath, especially the center where the soil tends to stay wet.

As they lay on top of their beds drying, I am constantly aware of how much direct sun they are getting. Normally you would want any tubers to do their drying in a VENTILATED (using a fan!!) SHADED room.
Choose a method that fits your environment

MEDIUMS
- Plastic wrap
- Peat moss
- Vermiculite
- Sand
- Wood chips

CONTAINERS
- Bulb crates
- Waxed boxes
- Cardboard boxes
- Brown paper bags
- Tupperware
CRATE METHOD

- Skyfall Flowers has a dry environment.
- Line the crate with a plastic (food grade safe) plastic bag with air holes.
- Cover the bottom with about an inch of peat moss. * here is where I need to evaluate the tubers that are going in.
- Layer in your tubers, cut as many of the hairy roots off and be sure that the stem is cut down to prevent rot.
- Layer again with peat moss.
- Cover with the plastic bag.
- Label, label, label!
The great tuber divide!

- Start with a clean clump of tuber so you can see what you’re doing!
- Usually find the Mother of the plant underneath the clump. Cut this one out first.
- If the clump is large, divide so that you can easily handle each section.
- Divide the clump by cutting down the center of the clump, you’ll sacrifice a tuber or two but you’ll survive.
- Cut large tubers along with part of the “neck” where the eye will grow out of.
- If tubers are small, recommend to cut along with another tuber attached to the neck.
- If holding the entire clump over winter, cut off anything broken, or long roots.
From summer to winter storage!

You can easily set up a walk-in cooler with a CoolBot, then regulate temperatures inside your cooler using an add-on controller and heater as outdoor temperatures fall in winter so that below-freezing weather will not affect your cooler.
YOUR COOLER COMPONENTS

• Window air conditioner with Coolbot or Coolbot Pro
• Basic (manually controlled) space heater with Inkbird ITC-308 temp controller or ITC-308 wifi temp controller
• Basic (manually controlled) humidifier with Inkbird IHC-200 humidity controller
Remote Monitoring and Control Options

- You can now control your air conditioner with a wifi-enabled Coolbot Pro
- Heater can also be operated remotely with Inkbird WiFi
- Monitor and adjust setpoints remotely, anywhere
- Both can send alerts when temp is too low or high
- Great peace of mind and cheap insurance
YOU NEED ASSURANCE WHEN STORING DAHLIAS ALWAYS CHECK ON THEM, DON'T STORE THEM AND FORGET THEM. I can easily see my temps from my phone, I can get alerts. ITS IMPORTANT THAT YOUR STORAGE AREA MAINTAIN THE SAME TEMPS. FLUCTUATIONS WILL IF YOU SEE ANY ROT WHILE STORING YOU WANT TO GET RID OF THOSE.

ONE OF THE MOST STRESSING QUESTION I SEE IS 'I CHECKED ON MY TUBERS AND THEY HAVE SHRIVELED UP AND ARE DRY, WHAT SHOULD I DO?" ONE OF THE MOST COMMON PROBLEMS OTHER THEN ROT (probably coming from green in the crate) is that your storage is too dry. Add in a humidifier, gently spray your medium and cover back up with plastic. You won't revive them completely back but its worth saving, right? Remember that a wrinkled tuber may not be dead however this is one you don't want to sell.
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<th>#1</th>
<th>#2</th>
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<td>$4.71 AVERAGE</td>
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<td>CRATE CAPACITY WITHOUT OCCUPYING THE CENTER WALKWAY</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>224</td>
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</table>
Skyfall Flowers
Dahlia Tubers, Education, Cut Flowers
skyfallflowers.bigcartel.com