

## Tips for Success

**We Help you Grow!:** For a quick video on how to store your Dahlia tubers overwinter, simply search online "Dahlia Overwintering with Devin Wallien" for his informative video. More information can be found at [robertasgardens.net](http://robertasgardens.net) and [QVC.com](http://QVC.com).

**When to Expect Flowers:** Dahlias go through their entire growth cycle in one season meaning they should flower the first season, given they are receiving a sufficient amount of full sunshine. They love full sun and lots of water during the growing season. Simply cut away bloomed out flowers after spent during the summer. This promotes new flowers.

**Dahlias used as Cut Flowers:** These make excellent cut flowers! Cut only the portion of the stem where the open flower is borne and no more than 1/2 of the total stem. Leave the smaller flower buds on the plant.

**Staking:** Dahlias like these tall and large flowering varieties often will need to be staked or require some sort of support to help stabilize the stems holding these huge blossoms. The stems really do prefer staking or some type of cage support for the best results.

**What is needed to Sub Divide them:** These tubers will re-bloom every year. They can be subdivided in early spring after 2-3 years. Separate them making sure each section has a portion of old stem and a visible bud or "eye".



## Roberta's Gardens PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



### Babylon Series Dinnerplate Decorative Dahlias *Dahlia hybrids*

We aren't happy if you aren't happy. If you have any questions regarding your order please call us at **1-765-525-4065** during the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm EST. You can email questions to us at: [customerservice@robertasinc.com](mailto:customerservice@robertasinc.com).

If your bulbs, cuttings, etc. do not sprout, or your plant dies within one year from the date of shipment, we will send you a replacement free of charge. We cannot accept responsibility for losses due to extreme weather or neglect. Simply call us at the above toll free number or fill out the plant replacement form on our website at [RobertasUniqueGardens.com](http://RobertasUniqueGardens.com).

Roberta's will replace it with a similar or comparable plant at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will ship the following year.

Perennials



Roberta's Unique Gardens  
P.O. Box 368, Waldron, IN 46182  
Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 4:30PM EST

[RobertasUniqueGardens.com](http://RobertasUniqueGardens.com)

 [@robertasgardens](https://www.instagram.com/robertasgardens)  [Roberta's Unique Gardens](https://www.facebook.com/Roberta's%20Unique%20Gardens)

## Quick Reference

 **Plant Type:** Tender Perennial  
(Annual)

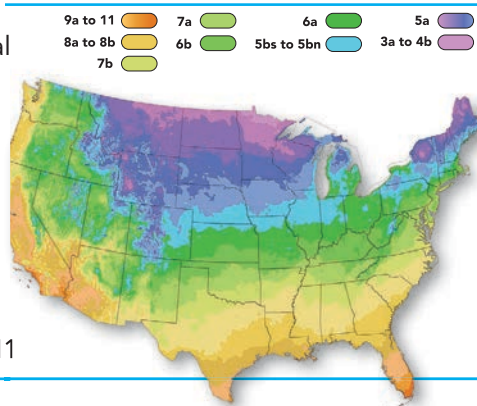
 **Light/Sun:** Full Sun

 **Mature Height:** 3-4'

 **Mature Spread:** 3-4'

 **Bloom Time:** Mid Summer  
till Early Fall

 **USDA Hardiness Zones:** 8 to 11



## Plant Caretaking

**Upon Arrival:** Please take tubers out of the box immediately and remove any shipping materials from around the plants. Plant as soon as your night temperatures stay above 45 degrees or if planting in pots, you can do so immediately. But if storage is required, you may keep the tubers in the refrigerator for up to 3 weeks.

**Planting Depth & Spacing:** Dig a hole about 10" wide and deep (6-8") enough to easily place the entire clump in the hole and cover with 1-2" of soil. Space about 24-30" apart from one another in the garden.

**Potted Plants:** Dahlias do great in containers and you may plant a couple tubers in a larger (20-25" diameter) container if you wish. If planting separately, then plant one tuber in an 8-10" pot. Be sure to use containers with drainage holes in the bottom.

**Soil Preparation:** They need a site with soil that is well-draining and will receive about 6 hours of sunlight a day. Amend heavy soils with potting mix and then add a 1-2 inch layer of mulch after planting. This helps keep the soil temperature more constant and it significantly helps the root zone retain moisture throughout the growing season.

**Watering:** To determine if your plant needs water, put your finger in the top of the soil and if the top inch is dry, it is time to water. Typically they can take water every 5 days or so if there is no precipitation. They resent soggy conditions so be sure not to let them sit in water too long. If you have them in pots, please be sure to water plants more frequently as they tend to dry out considerably more and become droopy.

**Fertilizer:** Use Roberta's Bounty a couple weeks after planting and then once or twice a month all summer long.

**Pet Considerations:** Ensure your pets do not consume plants.

**Where to Plant:** They love a sunny location that drains well. They are fantastic in flower beds mixed in with your perennials, or lovely in patio pots displayed on your porches.

**Pruning:** If you live where winters drop below 35F, bring the pots inside or dig them up. After the first frost, cut plants back leaving 6 inches of the stem and apply a small layer of mulch if you live in a warm winter climate. Dig them up if you live where winters drop below 35F being careful not to harm the tuber in the soil. Work off the soil and let dry in the sun for one day. Place in paper bags and NOT plastic bags as they tend to retain moisture and add a little dry peat moss or perlite. Store in a cool dry area until late spring the following year.

## Planting Steps

**Step 1** Remove plastic bag or sleeve from around the tubers or clumps and discard any packing materials. Discard any unattached pieces of old clumps or crown remnants. If necessary, you may store tubers in the refrigerator for up to 3 weeks. If planting into the garden itself, wait until night temperatures stay above 45 degrees. In pots or containers, you can plant immediately using one ten to twelve inch pot per tuber. You should place the plants outside and leave them there as soon as the evening temperatures stay above 45 degrees.

**Step 2** Determining the bottom or top of the clumps can be a bit confusing at first. The easiest way to differentiate between the two is to recognize the roots also similar looking to fingers. These clumps have roots radiating from a central point called the crown. Plant the clumps with the tubular roots or fingers facing downward and the old stem upwards.

**Step 3** Dahlia tubers like well-draining soil, so amend any heavy clay soils with potting mix for adequate drainage. Plant the clumps with the roots facing downward and the old stem upwards. Your hole should be deep enough to accommodate the tuber. Leave the old stem portion above the soil line. The crown will be just below the surface. This is where the stem meets the root. Dig a hole about 10" wide and deep enough (usually 6-8") so that you can easily place the entire root section in the hole and cover with 1-2" of soil. Place the clumps in the hole so that the old stem portion is above the soil line.

**Step 4** Fill in area around the planted tuber with soil or potting mix. Water in your newly planted tuber well. Once they sprout water again. Keep moist in summer. Throughout late summer and into autumn, water 5-7 days if planted directly in the garden, if there is no precipitation, to ensure that roots stay moist, but not soggy. If the conditions are too wet the roots will rot.

**Step 5** They are hardy in the winter to about 35 degrees. You can easily lift the tubers and store away in a frost free area for planting the next spring though. After the first heavy frost, cut plants back leaving 6 inches of the stem. Dig them up if you live where winters drop below 35 degrees being careful not to harm the tuber in the soil. Work off the soil and let dry in the sun for one day. Place in paper bags and NOT plastic bags as they tend to retain moisture and add a little dry peat moss. Store in a cool dry area until late spring the following year.

Remember these are the taller varieties growing to a height of 3-4 feet tall, so they may need some support or staking.

Sprouts in May usually after just a couple weeks. In the ground it takes a little longer if the temperatures are still cool.

