

Dahlias can be a tricky flower to grow, but their beauty makes the effort worth it! Here are some tips for planting your dahlia tubers:

Storing tubers:

 Your tubers may be dormant when you get them, but they all have an "eye", a tiny live spot that will be where your plant sprouts once it's warmed up after a few weeks. In the meantime, store your tubers in a dark, cool spot that is between 50-70 degrees. They won't stay viable if too cold or too hot.

Planting:

- You can plant your tubers outside once the <u>last</u> frost date has passed--you can check the USDA zone map to find out the last frost date in your area.
- Plant the tubers horizontally about 4" deep into loose soil. Adding compost for extra nutrients is optional.
- Green plant shoots can take 2-4 weeks to emerge from the soil after planting.
 - Do not water until you see the green shoots.

Care

- Once your plant has reached 12" in height, pinch off the terminal bud (the tight unopened, green bud on the plant) to encourage bushier foliage and more flower production. It seems counterintuitive to do this, but we promise it's worth it!
- Keep the soil moist.
- We stake and support the plants with netting as they get top heavy after blooms arrive.

good luck!