

Dahlia variabilis

Garden Pride

Dahlia

Culture guide

Uses:

Plants for the border, attractive pot plants and container plants for patio and window boxes.

Exposure:

Sun - Partial shade

Garden height:

12" / 30 cm

Crop time:

8-9 weeks

Sow time:

January-End July; Early February for selling to Mother's Day.

Sowing method:

2-3 seeds per plug, can be sown directly into final pot

Germination:

3-4 days at 68-70 °F (20-21 °C) lightly covered.

Stage II: 5-7 days maintain temperatures of 68-70 °F

(20-21 °C). Stage III: 12-14 days at 65-68 °F (18-20 °C). Stage IV: 7 at 60-62 °F (15-17 °C).

Growing On:

Grow on at temperature of 60-65 °F (15-18 °C), harden plants at 54-55 °F (12-13 °C) prior to sales.

Media:

Use a well-drained, growing substrate with 20-30 % clay, 1-2 kg/m³ complete balanced fertilizer, 1-2 kg/m³ slow release fertilizer (3-6 months), iron-chelate, micronutrients, pH: 5.5-6.0.

Temperature:

Grow at 15-18 °C or outdoors. For selling it is recommended to harden the plants at temperatures of 12-13 °C. Cultivate flowering plants not below 13 °C. Dahlia plants do not tolerate frost. Temperatures above 21 °C combined with long day of 16 h cause flowers to dry in and temperatures above 25 °C inhibit the flower initiation.

Fertilization:

Moderate fertilization levels are required. Fertilize the crop weekly with 100-150 ppm nitrogen, using a complete balanced fertilizer. Avoid high ammonium and high nitrogen levels. Prevent magnesium deficiency by applying magnesium sulphate (0,05 %) 1-2 times and in case of iron deficiency apply iron-chelate for 1-2 times.