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Yard 'n' Garden

For use week of
May 30, 1966



C. GUSTAV HARD ORRIN C. TURNQUIST
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ST. PAUL, MINN. 55101

GROWING DAHLIAS



The dahlia has become one of the most versatile and interesting garden flowers in recent years. Hybridization has developed many new flower types, improved the purity of color and also the ability of the flowers to last in the home.

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The dahlia likes full sun, good air circulation and good drainage. You will find that it thrives best in a cool soil that has been well mulched.

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In planting the dahlia be sure that a portion of the stem remains on the root. If the root is broken off too short, no new shoots will be produced. Usually you can see the bud shoots beginning at the upper tip of the root. Carefully dig the hole to a depth of 8 inches. The top of the root should be about 3 inches below the soil surface. Before filling the hole completely place the stake in the hole for staking the plant later. Next, fill the hole and firm the soil so the stake is well supported.

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As the shoots begin to emerge from the soil they may be tied to the stake. Use a soft material because the stems of dahlias are quite succulent.

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As soon as warm days begin in summer place a heavy mulch about the base of the plant to keep the soil cool and the moisture in the area of the roots.

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Most bothersome insects on the dahlia are thrip and stock borer. As a preventive measure dust or spray at regular intervals with DDT. In using insecticides always follow the directions on the label.

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Regular fertilization by side-dressing is helpful to keep the plants vigorous and blooming.

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On some of the larger flower types disbudding is practiced in order to improve the quality of the flower. # # # #

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