

Culture Information for the Dahlietta Dahlia Series

Order Information – Bosgraaf Greenhouses, Inc., 2011 – 2012

Minimum order:	4 trays of 98 cell or 392 plants
Pac size:	98 cell tray – charged for 96 plants
Box size:	21" X 21" X 21" – holds 8 individually boxed trays = 784 plants
Box weight:	30-35 lbs (6-8 trays)
Availability:	November 7, 2011 – June 11, 2012
Lead time:	8 weeks – late orders Dec.-May subject to availability of cuttings
Shipped:	FOB Hudsonville, Michigan
Care tags:	Included in price – I tag per cutting
Royalty:	Included in price

Handling rooted cuttings – PUSH UP CUTTINGS FROM BOTTOM WITH BOLT

1. Unpack immediately and check the need for water.
2. Planting – dibbling the cutting in pre-watered pots keeps the soil packed around the plant.
3. Plant deeply, covering from 1-3 leaves. This helps support the foliage and flowers of the dahlietta.
4. A fungicide drench is always a good preventative, especially for pythium.

Handling unrooted cuttings

1. Plant cuttings as soon as possible covering the first leaf, or store in a cool place for a very short time period.
2. Mist according to conditions during the day with careful monitoring during the first week. Dry down going toward night.
3. Maintain bottom heat at 68 F.

Container size	# of cuttings	pinching	finish time
4"-4 1/2"	1	optional	6-8 weeks
5"	1	optional	7-8 weeks
6"	1	pinch	8-9 weeks
7", 7 1/2", 8", 8 1/2"	2-3	pinch	8-9 weeks
10" Hanging Basket	4	pinch	8-9 weeks
Combination planter	1+	pinch	6-8 weeks

Soil

Use a well drained, sterilized planting medium, pH of 6.

Fertilization & watering

1. Osmocote 14-14-14 can be incorporated into the soil at a rate of 4-6 lbs per cubic yard.
2. Constant liquid feed can be used at 150-200 ppm with 20-10-20, alternating with 15-0-15.
3. A combination feed using a multi-headed injector with 20-10-20 or 15-0-15 and 20-35 ppm of magnesium.
4. Potassium nitrate can be used to build stocky stems at 200 ppm.

Temperature & Humidity

Ideal growing temperatures range from 65-70 F. during the day and 65-68 F. at night

Light conditions

1. Grow dahliettas with a maximum amount of available light with a minimum of 2000 footcandles.
2. If low light conditions persist, 400 footcandles of HID lighting may be added.

Flowering – Photo Period Requirements

1. Long days are needed for quality dahlietta vegetative growth and timely bud development.
2. A 14 hour day is required to keep dahliettas vegetative. Use mum lighting.

Pinching or center bud removal

1. Most 4" and 5" productions are not pinched because of great self-branching and early flowering characteristics.
2. Center bud removal or first bud removal can be used on non-pinched plants to promote lateral bud/flower development. Flowering is delayed from 4-7 days.

Spacing

Allows more air movement and helps prevent fungal and stretching problems.

Pest & Disease Prevention

1. Thrip, mite, aphid and white fly are potential pests.
2. Control can be achieved using Marathon, Conserve, Avid, Maverick, Thiodan. Talstar, Tempo, Orthene, Tame, Decathlon or Duraguard.
3. Use of Dursban and Vydate can cause leaf burn.
4. A fungicide spray in combination with an insecticide spray is recommended.

Use of growth regulators for height control

1. Generally the dahlietta can remain compact.
2. Use 5-15 ppm of Bonzi as a spray.

Tips for Growing Dahlias – 2012

1. All dahlias need 14 hours of day length to grow and stay vegetative.
 - Growers must extend the day with mum lighting to 14 hours.
 - Failure to do so causes dahlias to form tubers, flower profusely and shut down growth and become dormant.
 - Bury 1 set of leaves which helps firm up the plant as it grows.
2. Low temperatures can cause dahlias to grow very little if at all.
 - Day and night temperatures of 65 F. keeps dahlias growing. We use 68 F. as the bench mark to keep roots moving & vegetation forming.
 - Initial temperatures are key to plant growth and development.
 - Low temperatures can also cause roots to remain wet and contribute to root rot and other fungal diseases.
3. Using a fungicide drench as a preventive.
 - November - February plantings (and later) of dahlia must consider a fungicide at planting or within 5 to 7 days.

4. Combating powdery mildew and botrytis.
 - Powdery mildew and botrytis need to be considered even when recommended temperatures and conditions are followed.
 - Changes in the amount of light or swings in daytime temperatures can contribute to conditions causing fungal and mildew problems (humidity, temperature and light levels).
 - Use a fungicide spray with an insecticide spray to help with prevention.
5. Feed moderately = 100 ppm of 20-10-20, 75 ppm of 15-0-15, 25 ppm mag. (200 ppm)
6. Height control: most growers are using Bonzi as a spray or drench. Every series is different – see color sell sheets for detail.
7. Summary: good growing means evaluating plants & conditions daily.

Dahlietta Varieties Available: * denote new for 2011 - 2012

1. Anna – scarlet
2. Apricot Sunrise – bi-color apricot
3. Betty – violet
- * 4. Blanca Improved – white
5. Caroline – rose
6. Cherry Sunrise – cherry / yellow
7. Emily – light pink
8. Jenny – bi-color orange
- * 9. Julia – lemon yellow
- *10. Lily – salmon
11. Louise – rose / white
12. Margaret – yellow
13. Patricia – gold / red
14. Patty – burgundy
15. Rachel – orange
16. Sunburst – bi-color yellow / red
17. Tessa – red
18. Violet Frost – bi-color violet
19. Wendy – pink