

The Dark Angels Dahlia Series

Order Information – Bosgraaf Greenhouse, Inc. 2011-2012

Dark Angels are available as a rooted 98 cell pac liner or as an unrooted cutting. Finish time is about 9 weeks from pinching. There are 98 rooted cuttings per tray - charged for 98 cuttings per tray.

Minimum order:	4 trays of 98 or 392 total plants (8 trays of 784 plants = 1 full box)
Box size:	21"X 21" X 21" holds 8 individually boxed trays. Winter & summer packed
Box weight:	30-35 lb (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 – 1 tag per cutting
Royalty:	Included in price

General Information

1. Very dark leaves giving an outstanding contrast with flowers
2. Profuse and continuous blooming
3. Pot sizes are from 4.5" /1 plant, 6"/1 plant, 7"-8"/ 2 plants, 10"/3-4 plants
- 4. Pinching is not recommended for a 4.5" pot program. A no-pinch program is also possible for 6", 8" and 10" pots. Flowering is generally 10-14 days earlier without a pinch.**
5. Do not over feed. A constant feed of 150 ppm with an EC of 1.0 or less is best. A blended or alternating feed of 15-0-15, magnesium and 20-10-20 totaling 150 ppm works well.
6. Growers must extend the daylight to 14 hours of continuous daylight using mum lighting or high intensity light. Stop when daylight reaches 14 hours naturally.
7. Growing temperatures are best between 65 and 72 degrees Fahrenheit.
8. Use Bonzi as a spray for height control. Use 15 – 45 ppm depending on light levels, feeding program, and temperature. Generally speaking, the Dark Angels can be grown in 6" or 1 gallon or larger containers with very little, if any, growth retardant. The exception is Star Wars, which is slightly more aggressive but a beautiful color. This variety might need a Bonzi spray starting 2 weeks after planting. Summer programs are ideal for this series.
9. Use a pesticide spray routine that is similar to New Guinea impatiens.
10. Light conditions: Grow Dark Angels with a maximum amount of available light with a minimum of 2000 footcandles. If low light conditions persist, 400 footcandles can be added.
- 11. Photo period requirements: long days are needed for quality dahlia vegetative growth and timely bud development. A 14 hour day is required to keep dahlias vegetative. Use mum lighting.**

Tips for Growing Dahlias – 2011

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 and 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 culture sheets for each series.

7. Summary: good growing means evaluating plants & conditions daily.

Variety: Name – color

1. American Pie – soft pink
2. Braveheart - purple
3. Dracula – bright red
4. Dragon Ball – cream with red center
5. Pretty Woman – dark pink
6. Pulp Fiction - orange
7. Star Wars – orange with yellow center
8. Taxi Driver – yellow

Uses

Use in pots, garden and landscape plantings! They are spectacular!