

Another Season Over

We have come to the end of another Dahlia growing season and we now look forward to the next. Now is the time to start lifting our tubers and putting them to bed for the winter, don't forget to label them.

The key to successfully storing dahlia tubers for the winter is making sure they stay dry, have good air circulation and are in a cool, dark spot.

If you are a new member and are planning to grow Dahlia's next season here is some tips for a successful dahlia garden bed.



Dahlias grow best in moist, rich, and well-drained soil with full morning sun, afternoon shade and protection from

winds. Before planting, improve the soil by digging in well-rotted organic matter such as compost, leaf mould and manure. Stake tall growers at planting so you don't damage the tuber.

Your Dahlia's will bloom and provide you with color and an abundance of flowers for cutting and enjoying throughout the summer. The more you cut a dahlia plant the more it will bloom.

In Australia, October to November is a good timeframe to plant, especially if you want to see blooms around Christmas and new year.

It's traditional in cold and warm temperate regions of Australia to plant your dahlia two weeks either side of Melbourne Cup Day.

Dahlias should be planted on their side with the eye facing up. If there is no eye visible at the time of planting, you can just place the tuber in the ground lying flat and the eye will find its way to the surface.



Tips for getting more blooms from your dahlias

- 1: Stake the plants: Dahlia blooms are easily spoiled if the plants are left to flop on the ground.
- 2: Deadhead: Deadheading dahlias is very important to prolong flowering.

3: Fertilize regularly: Once flowers appear on your dahlia plants, feed with liquid or a granular fertilizer low in nitrogen, every 3 to 4 weeks during the growing season.

4: Watch for fungal diseases.

5: Irrigate regularly: Dahlias produce large plants and therefore need a fair amount of water. Ideally you will keep your soil evenly moist, never let it be soggy, and never let it dry out.

You should only water the tuber after planting if the soil is dry. If dry conditions do exist, water the tuber once and then wait for growth to occur.

Did you know?

Dahlias were originally classified as a vegetable as the tubers are edible, they are said to taste like a mix of potatoes and radishes.

The mountain regions of Mexico and Guatemala are the birthplace of today's dahlia and remains the national flower of Mexico to this day.

People use dahlias for symbolism During the Victorian era as a symbol of commitment and an everlasting union

Season in Review

Portland Dahlia & Rose Show 2022



Open Championship 1st Prize
Deb Collett



Vase of the Show
Deb Collett



Winners are grimmers

Annual General Meeting

Elections

Portland Dahlia Society Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 15th May where the member elected officer bearers for the next 12 months.

Our President Bruce Millard reflected on the past 12 months with some of the challenges we had especially with covid restrictions and the late notification on the availability of the Civic Hall for our annual show. Bruce thanked the current office bearers for their support and commitment over the past 12 months and thanked our members for their help and support with preparation and running of our annual show.

All in all, we had another successful year and look forward to the next 12 months in growing our Dahlias and our club.

Elected officers for the next 12 months:

President: Bruce Millard
Vic President: Alf Hardingham
Secretary: Ian Hamley
Treasurer: Freda Cawsey

54th Annual Dahlia & Rose Show

It was agreed to at our annual general meeting to hold our annual Dahlia & Rose Show on Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th March 2023.

Entry fee to the public will remain at \$5.00 for people over the age of 13. Under 13 years free entry. Exhibitors will have free entry.

Membership Fees

Our annual membership fee of \$5.00 is now due you can pay by direct deposit.

Account Name: Portland Dahlia Society

BSB: 063536

Account No. 10062405

The Dahlia Society of Australia

Annual conference 2022 is being hosted by Queensland Dahlia Society Inc at the Econolodge in Toowoomba on the Darling Downs from the 10th to the 12th of June.

Helen Martin has kindly offered to be our delegate at the conference and Rodney Clark has kindly offered to read out our Presidents report on behalf of Bruce.

Thank you to Helen & Rodney for helping us out.

Tuber Sales

As we have come to the end of another season our members will be lifting their tuber and dividing them for the winter. At this time, we will be looking at our Tuber Sales list and adjusting accordingly before we publish the list on our web site.

We plan to have our Tuber Sales List publish by the end of June on our web site and will ship tubers from October. It is advised to keep checking our web site regularly for tuber sales updates as Tubers usually sell out very quickly.

You will find our Tuber Sales List at:

<http://www.portlanddahliasocietyinc.com.au/>

Our web site has range of topics that may be of interest and is a good resource for new members. Please check it out.

Dahlia Companion Plants

There is absolutely nothing like a big bed of dahlia flowers. The blooms come in many colors and sizes, giving any gardener's taste an outlet.

When planning your bed, it's a good idea to consider what to plant with dahlias. Dahlia companion plants can be the perfect accents to set off the flowers but may also aid in deterring pests or even act as a decoy and sacrifice themselves to insect predators.

Choose plants that assist dahlias by repelling pests, so the garden bed is free of insects and dahlia health is protected. Herbs are often good choices, as many of them have pungent scents and oils which seem to deter pests.

- Artemisia has glorious silvery foliage that is finely cut and will repel slugs while setting off the lacy foliage of the dahlias.
- Creeping comfrey tolerates light shade and may also deter slugs.

- Coriander and anise are nice to have in the kitchen garden but also repel aphids, and anise will attract predatory wasps, which kill those sucking insects.
- Other herbal companions for dahlia might be mint, thyme, and rosemary.
- Geraniums have a slightly unpleasant smell but unparalleled flowers in the garden and are toxic to aphids but attract Japanese beetles in a self-sacrifice that can spare the dahlias.

Useful Links

Dahlia Society of Australia
<http://www.dahliasaustralia.org.au/>

Dahlia Society of Victoria
<https://dahliasocietyofvictoria.org.au/>

Portland Dahlia Society
<http://www.portlanddahliasocietyinc.com.au/>

Dahlia Society of NSW & ACT
<http://dahliasocietynswact.org.au/>

International Dahlia Societies

American Dahlia Society
<http://www.dahlia.org/>

Colorado Dahlia Society
<http://www.dahlias.net/>

National Dahlia Society of UK
<http://www.dahlia-nds.co.uk/>

National Dahlia Society of New Zealand
<http://www.nzdahliasociety.50megs.com/index.html>

Dahlia Society of France
<http://dahlia.france.free.fr/>

The Growing World of Dahlias
<http://www.dahliaworld.co.uk/>

For Sale

Honda Tiller \$600

Tiller no longer required hardly used. Please contact President B. Millard or Secretary I. Hamley for further details.



Upcoming Events

Meeting Schedule for 2022/2023:

Sunday 11th September 2022 2:30 pm
Portland Football Club

Sunday 9th October 2022 1:30 pm
Portland Football Club

Sunday 13th November 2022 1:30 pm
Portland Football Club

Sunday 11th December 2022 1:30 pm
Portland Football Club

Sunday 8th January 2023 1:30 pm
Portland Football Club

Sunday 12th February 2023 1:30 pm
Portland Football Club

Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th March
2023 Annual Dahlia & Rose Show

Sunday 19th April 2023 1:30 pm
Alf's place (BBQ/Show Review)

Sunday 7th May 2023 1:30 pm
Portland Football Club (AGM)



Showing Dahlias

Growing dahlias for showing or exhibition is similar to growing for the garden and cut flower arrangements. There are a few areas where extra attention is needed, and more preparation is required.

If you intend showing dahlias, you need to know what qualities are required in your dahlias. To this end, you must understand the judging rules.

Shows will normally be judged by a qualified judge who has had to pass a judging examination. We all like to think we have perfect dahlias, but sadly this is not the case, and the task of the judge is to find the faults with the blooms, and the ones with least faults will be the winners.

You also need to know what is required at the show in terms of the schedule of classes and the show regulations. You will need to know which shows you intend entering and get some idea of the classes so that you can be sure to grow the correct varieties to give yourself a chance.

You need to know what varieties to grow and how many of each, as many varieties will not meet the exhibition criteria. Having decided which varieties to grow, it is necessary to obtain the best stock you can find as either tubers or plants.

Make sure you have schedules for the shows you intend to enter, and that you are growing the appropriate varieties.

In the week leading up to the show, check to see which blooms are likely to be at their best on show day. As they are selected, they should be supported by using a split cane or wire

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Thank You

