



Southern Highlands Flower Farm is a micro flower farm that was created by Jen Foster in the Winter of 2019, three years after falling in love with the Southern Highlands and making the quintessential tree-change from city to country.

Southern Highlands Flower Farm focus is on cut-flower perennials, specialising in:

<b>DAHLIAS</b>	<b>RANUNCULUS</b>	<b>PEONIES</b>
3,000 + plants	6,000 + plants	1,000 + plants
650 + cultivars	20 + cultivars	40 + cultivars

Southern Highlands Flower Farm is a private property and is based in Penrose (just south of Bundanoon). As the farm is part of Jen’s home, they are not open to the public. You can however experience the farm by staying at the farms pet-friendly Airbnb Newbury Cottage.

Newbury Cottage is a self-contained pet-friendly two-bedroom cottage perfect for families. Set on a private five-acre property which is also home to Southern Highlands Flower Farm. The property also includes the main residence (separate and private) and park-like grounds with beautiful gardens.



Bookings can be made via Airbnb:  
<https://www.airbnb.com/h/newburycottage>

Jen is a very passionate collector of Dahlias; they are Jen’s favorite flower. Jen’s current collection includes over 500 cultivars across all variety types. Jen loves being able to share her collection with the public through her annual Dahlia tuber sale.

You can find out more about Southern Highlands Flower Farm and their annual tuber sales via their web site at:

<https://www.southernhighlandsflowerfarm.com.au/>

### Growing Dahlias from Seeds vs Tubers

Article sourced from [www.mrfothergills.com.au](http://www.mrfothergills.com.au)

Dahlias are most commonly grown from tubers but can also be grown from seed. When deciding whether to grow Dahlias from seeds or tubers there are a few things to take into consideration:

Growing Dahlias from seed is very different from growing from a tuber. A Dahlia tuber is harvested off a parent plant meaning what you grow will be identical to that of the parent it was harvested from, this allows you to know exactly what colour and style you will end up with. Whereas propagating from seed results in a random specimen based on the genetics within the seed and pollination from insects which modify the genetic makeup of the seed. This means you won’t know what colour or size your dahlias will end up being until they have flowered, whilst this may be exciting for some, if you are wanting a specific variety, you are better off growing from tubers.

Dahlia’s grown from seed or tubers will both result in a flowering plant in the first year. However, as tubers store more energy than seeds, in the first year you are most likely to see longer and better flowering from a Dahlia grown from a tuber than that grown from seed. Seed-grown Dahlias will develop tubers as they grow and establish and will become stronger as the years go on.



#### How to Grow Dahlias from seed

Dahlia seedlings are best planted out in the garden after the last frost date but can be started early indoors.

Sow seeds 5mm deep in seed raising mix and keep moist. If you are sowing in Spring or Summer, you can sow direct into their final growing position in the garden if preferred.

Seedlings should appear in 10-14 days.

Transplant into a sunny part of the garden when large enough to handle and the danger of frost has passed. Plant into well-draining soil enriched with organic matter and rotted manure.

Mulch around your seedlings to keep weeds at bay and keep the soil cool in Summer.

Feed with a liquid fertiliser when buds appear.

Stake as required and protect from wind as this may damage their stems.

Flowers should appear approximately 3-4 months after germination.

At the end of the growing season allow your Dahlia plants to die back before cutting off at ground level, this will allow energy to return to the tuber, energising it for a bigger and better flowering season the next year!

Your Dahlia plants grown from seed will produce tubers, which once mature can be lifted and separated at the end of the growing season. These tubers will grow identical flowers to what that plant produced. Essentially, you have just created your own unique variety of Dahlia!



### Quince Flowers Podcast

A series all about growing Dahlias!



Hosted by siblings, Caitlyn, and Peter Mason

The 10<sup>th</sup> episode of the Quince Flowers Podcast is worth a listen, Caitlyn and Peter reflect on what they have learnt from the podcasts and what changes they are planning for next season.

Their guest in this episode is our very own Alf Hardingham founder of Glenmarc Dahlias. They discuss Alf's early life as a cattle farmer, and wood chopper, his start with dahlias, and how he grows over four thousand each season. Alf has won Australia's Dahl medal, the Dahlia Society of Australia's highest honor, it is easy to see why after hearing everything Alf has contributed to dahlias and the community.

You can access Quince Flowers Podcasts via the links below.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1851149>

[Episode 2 with Warren Vigor](#)

[Episode 3 with Kelly Munday](#)

[Episode 4 with Gerald Oldfield](#)

[Episode 5 with Deb Collette](#)

[Episode 6 with Dr Keith Hammett](#)

[Episode 7 with Wayne McCosker](#)

[Episode 8 with Graeme Davis](#)

[Episode 9 with Pam Armstrong](#)

[Episode 10 with Alf Hardingham](#)

[Episode 11 with Jenny Parish](#)

### TYRENDARRA AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Lots of Fun for all the Family

SATURDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2023

Come along and enjoy the spectacle, excitement, and fun of the Tyrendarra Agricultural Show, it features a pet competition, cattle, horses, sheep, poultry, a Car Show and Shine, vintage tractor and motor display, craft, cooking and cut flowers plus a whole lot more.

The show is held at the Tyrendarra Recreation Reserve. You will be amazed by the quality of our regional show.

Admission to Grounds Adults \$10

Pensioners \$5 (cards must be produced)

Children Under 13 Free

### How to Take Cuttings

Article sourced from [www.theseedcollection.com.au](http://www.theseedcollection.com.au)

#### 1. Let the Tubers Grow Shoots

Begin by 'waking up' your tubers in later winter or early spring. Fill a seedling tray or small pot with free-draining, just damp potting mix, coir or sawdust. Make sure the pot or tray you use has good drainage, remembering that dahlia tubers are prone to rotting. Sit the tuber horizontally on top of the mix. You can half bury some of the tuber, but make sure the neck and stem are not covered with soil.

Place the container in a warm spot out of direct sunlight. There's no need to water the tubers so long as the soil remains slightly damp to the touch. You should see eyes develop near the neck of the tuber within a couple of weeks. Shoots will then emerge from the eyes.

#### 2. Take the Cutting

You can take a cutting once the shoots are 5-10cm tall and ideally with three to four leaves. Use a clean razor blade or sharp knife. There are two options when taking the cutting:

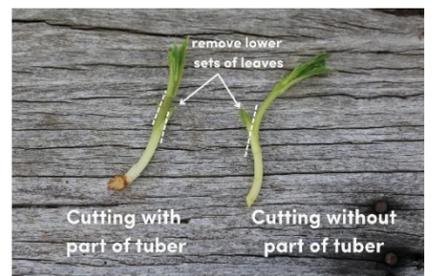
Cut the shoot near to the tuber leaving the eye and a small stub of the shoot on the tuber. The eye and remaining shoot will regrow, and the tuber can then be planted as usual.

Cut a small piece of the tuber along with the shoot. Many gardeners believe this helps the cutting establish, but as the eye has been removed from the tuber it will not reshoot. This is a good technique to use if there are multiple eyes on a tuber or clump of tubers; leave 2-3 eyes and their corresponding shoots on the tuber to be planted and take cuttings from the rest.



#### 3. Trim the Lower Leaves

Remove the lower leaves, leaving just the top pair. If the top pair of leaves are large you can cut them in half to reduce water loss.



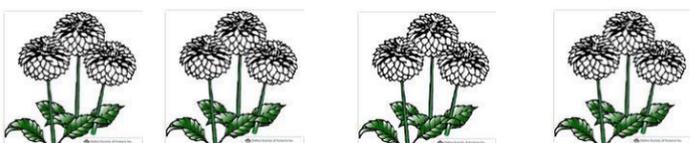
#### 4. Pot Up the Cutting



Plant the cutting in free draining potting mix. A standard commercial mix is fine, though some growers improve the drainage of the soil by adding 30-50% perlite or a mix of coarse sand, perlite and vermiculite.

#### 5. Create a Good Growing Environment

Dahlias love the heat, so a warm environment with a moderate to high humidity is perfect to get the cuttings growing well. Use a mini greenhouse, place your cuttings on a sunny windowsill or make a makeshift greenhouse using a crate or foam box covered with a plastic lid. Keep the soil mix moist but not too wet. Plant out the cuttings once roots have developed and new leaves are beginning to form.



### Upcoming Events

Meeting Schedule for 2022/2023:

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

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

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

### 2023 Show Schedule

Tyrendarra Agricultural Show  
Saturday 11th February 2023  
Tyrendarra Recreation Reserve

Bacchus Marsh Dahlia Show  
18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
Bacchus Marsh Town Hall

Portland Dahlia & Rose Show  
11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
Portland Civic Hall

### Mystery of Black Dahlias

Article sourced from [www.clarefflorist.co.uk](http://www.clarefflorist.co.uk)

It's not only the darkest colour that a flower can be, but one of the rarest, too. But now some of the mystery behind this blackest of blooms has been solved.

Black dahlias are extremely rare: less than 20 of 200,000 species of dahlia are black. But new research from scientists has thrown new light on how these dark flowers get their colour. Analysing the pigment makeup of dahlias, scientists in Austria found that black dahlias contain far more 'anthocyanins', and far fewer 'flavones', than other colours of dahlia.

As technical as this all sounds, it could have exciting implications in the future: researcher Heidi Halbwrith says this knowledge could be used to improve techniques for flower breeding, helping dahlia lovers to grow the perfect black dahlia.

### Useful Links

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

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

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

Dahlia Society of NSW & ACT  
<http://dahliasocietyvnswact.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/>

### Show Preparations on Track

We are on track for our show in March. Confirmation that the Portland Civic Hall is booked for another great show after our panic last year with short notice that the hall was not available, which we were able to overcome by sourcing a good venue at the old mighty cheap store to hold our show, which was a huge success.

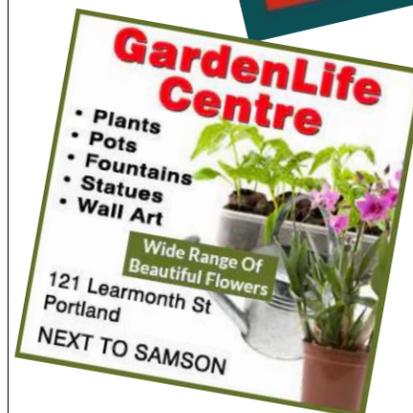
We will now start to review our show schedule and get this finalised before Christmas so we can go to print and send copies out to our exhibitors.

Our members and exhibitors will soon begin planting their tubers in order to have some magnificent blooms ready for our show.

We are also currently following up with our wonderful sponsors to confirm their continued support, as without our sponsors we could not hold such a wonderful community event such as our show.

We also thank our members whose tireless work in the background leading up to our show the setting up of show benches and, preparation the hall for the show makes it possible for us to continue to hold such a prestigious event for our fantastic community.

### Our Sponsors



Portland

Thank you to the sponsors and supporters of the Portland Dahlia & Rose Show.

Without our sponsors and supporters, the Show would not be such a great community event.

