

Culture Information

Dahlia DahliettaTM

Plant type:	Tender perennial
Uses:	Indoor or as patio pot plant and in mixed containers
Plant height:	15-20cm

Approximate crop timing (mid season)

Ball Paper 126 to flowering 7-9 weeks

Growing on:

Temperature	Day temperature 18-21°C, night temperature 15-18°C. A too low temperature during the day causes a longer growing period and the plants could stay too compact. A low temperature (18°C) combined with a short day (12 hours) can lead to bud induction. A good plant can be grown with lower temperatures (about 15°C), provided that the potting date is after week 10.
pH	5.8 -6.2
Media	Use media with good aeration, drainage and water holding capacity.
Feeding	To achieve fast growth, the crop needs feeding 2-3 weeks after potting. A well-balanced fertiliser to be used at every other watering with an EC of 1.0 to start with, which can be raised to 1.5 later. At final stage give Potash to stimulate bud induction and to harden plants off.
Pinching	No pinching is necessary when grown in a small pot (i.e. 10cm). If grown in a bigger pot, pinching to 3- 4 leaf pairs can be used 2 weeks after planting. This will give a better branch growth from the base and therefore increase the number of flowers. The flowering will be delayed by 7 to 10 days.
Growth regulation	Dahlietta has a naturally compact habit and growth regulators are generally not necessary when grown under high light levels. However if the crop is grown at high temperatures with low light levels, application might be necessary. .
Pot size	Dependent on final plant size. Pot 1 plant 10-13cm pot; 3 plants in 15-18cm pot.

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Plants per m ²	10cm-25 plants/ m ² 12cm-20 plants/ m ² 13cm-12 plants/ m ² 14cm-10 plants/ m ²
Advice	Do not allow the plants to dry out, this might cause premature flowering but a too wet media will keep the plant vegetative. Do not let the plants become weak as this can lead to yellowing of the leaves. Ensure plugs are potted at sufficient depth to anchor mature plants.
Common diseases	Wet foliage needs to be avoided to prevent Botrytis and Mildew. Pythium and Rhizoctonia can also cause problems.
Common pests	Thrips, Leaf Miner, Aphids and Whitefly.

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