

# Cultural recommendation

## Dahlia

### Description

**Name:** Dahlia Cultivars

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Varieties:** Dalaya Mini, Midi & Maxi, Meena



### Product use

**Use:** Bedding and balcony plant

**Exposure:** Full sun

### Technical recommendations

**Potting and plants/m2:** Potting date from March to June.

Type	Pot size cm.	Pot size cm.	Estimate final crop density plant/m2
Mini	6-11	10,5	35-37
Midi	10-12	12	32-35
Maxi and Dalaya	15-30	19	9-12

**Substrate:** Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a good structure adapted to each pot size. pH 5.8-6.2. As a basic fertilization starter a 1-1,5 g/l compound fertilizers should be in the substrate.

**Fertilizer:** High fertilizer need with balanced nutrient components. Start feeding when first roots become visible. Use a balanced 2-1-2 NPK with Ca, Mg and micronutrients fertilizer at 1-1,5 gr/l in every watering.

**Temperature:** First 2 weeks keep night temperature > 16°C (61°F) until the crop is well established. Then nights temperature: 14 to 16°C (57 to 61°F) and day temperature: 16 to 20°C (61 to 68°F). Cooler temperatures can be used to help control growth and tone the plants at the end of the crop. Higher than recommended temperatures will cause stretch, soft plants and flowering delay.

**Watering:** Media should be allowed to moderately dry between irrigations to prevent diseases and promote stronger growth. Don't let Dahlia get extremely dry since this can cause leaf damages

**Light levels:** Dahlias need high light levels. Under greenhouse conditions only use shade at the end of the crop in warm climates to control the high temperature. Dahlia need long days, at least during >14h. Shorter day lengths will slow growth or may even cause growth to stop completely. The plants will also begin production of tubers. For northern regions, use assimilation light when natural light is below 3-4 Klux. Under these conditions is recommended supplementary light at 60-70 µmol m2 sec-1. CO2 supply at 600 ppm will also help to improve plant quality.

**Pinching:** up to 13 cm pot, pinch is not necessary. For bigger pots you can pinch leaving 2-3 internodes. Pinched plants will be more bushy and floriferous and production time will increase by additional 7 to 12 days.

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## Technical recommendations

**Grow control:** Providing cool temperatures, high light and keeping the media on the light-dry side, will help keep the plants more compact. PGR's: Dahlia are responsive to Daminozide (Dazide/Alar/B-nine). Use it during the first growing stages to control early stretch. Number of treatments depends on: pot size, growing conditions (light, temperature, etc.) and variety. Growers must trial all PGR's under their conditions and follow the registration uses of each chemical in their region.

**Pest and Diseases:** Dahlia is sensitive to various pest under greenhouse conditions. Whiteflies, aphids, thrips and spider mites are the most common pest. Start with clean material a well disinfected facilities together with a proper pest management program using different control strategies: exclusion, monitoring, biological and chemical control, are the best tools to control these pests.

Dahlia are also sensitive to several diseases like, Rhizoctonia, Pythium, Powdery mildew, Botrytis and Fusarium. Disease management should be addressed by sanitation strategies, environmental conditions control, biological and chemical control.

For the chemical control, follow the registration uses of each product in each region

**Outdoor Production:** Dahlia can be produced outdoors as a spring summer crop if there is no risk of frost. In this case it's better to choose the Maxi types in 15 to 30 cm pot.

## Crop schedule \* 11 cm pot, non pinched

week	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	25	25	26	
	P								F														
						P							F										
											P						F						
																P							F

P: Potting.. F: Finish plant

\* This is a reference time schedule that can vary depending on the variety, growing conditions and region. Starting from RC.

## Crop schedule \* 19 cm pot, pinched

week	5	6	7	..	10	11	...	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	....	27	28				
	P	Pi						F															
					P	Pi						F											
								P	Pi								F						
													P	Pi									F

P: Potting. Pi: Pinch F: Finish plant

\* This is a reference time schedule that can vary depending on the variety, growing conditions and region. Starting from RC

**NOTE:** Growers should use the information presented here as guidelines only. Selecta One recommends that growers conduct a trial of products under their own conditions. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year, and greenhouse environmental conditions. It is the responsibility of the grower to read and follow all the current label directions relating to the products. Nothing herein shall be deemed a warranty or guaranty by Selecta One of any products listed herein