



Cactus dahlia

## Saving, re-using dahlias and tuberous begonias

**Dahlias** are annuals that provide colour to the garden from July-ish to frost

- they come in various size and colours
- they complement perennials, generally in sun
- benefit from deadheading
- they can be re-used from year to year
- Tubers (dahlias and some begonias) are underground roots with fleshy, food-storing parts that resemble tubers.
- Here's a website that explains the difference among bulbs, corms, tubers, rhizomes
  - <https://pediaa.com/what-is-the-difference-between-bulbs-corms-tubers-and-rhizomes/#Bulbs>
- buy bulbs (tubers) in packages in most local locations that sell plants or online

<https://www.brecks.com/category/dinnerplate-dahlias>

First year can get an early start in pots inside. Plant tuber started inside or directly in garden after frost (late May, early June).

Following years, store the tubers

### Prepping for storage

After first killing frost

- dig plant up with a fork, being careful to avoid the tubers

- shake off the dirt, getting as much off as you can. Wash the tubers, then put in the sun with some air-circulation to dry. If frost persists, dry inside. Cut off the top of the plant about an inch above the tuber. Note plant characteristics, such as height and flower colour, e.g. yellow-pink cactus dahlia, 75 cm.

## **Storage**

- store in peat moss in a box in a cool, dark place over winter. I use a cold storage cupboard (no insulation on the outside wall) in my basement that stays 15 degrees C year around. Marlene stores her potatoes, onions and squash there. Check periodically to make sure tubers aren't doing out too much. If they are, sprinkle a bit of water over the peat.

## **Next March**

Remove tubers from the peat, divide. Here's a primer on dividing. There are also several YouTube videos showing you how.

**<https://summerdreamsfarm.com/dahlia-tuber-and-splitting-guide>**

- Plant into 6-inch pots with crown covered. Keep inside in trays in a sunny location. Water when needed. Watch for sprouting

## **Transplanting into the garden**

Plant in a sunny location about end of May, early June.

## ***Tuberous Begonias***

- large, spectacular rose-like flowers
- upright or cascading (trailing)
- bloom until frost
- prefer shade and regulated water
- can be used year to year
- buy begonia tubers the same way you do dahlias. Buying dahlias that have been forced to flower may not have enough tuber nutrients to save the tuber.



Trailing and non-stop begonia

Follow instructions for dahlias for digging up and storing.

In the spring, start begonia plants by placing the tubers on damp peat moss in a warm environment. When roots and tops have started, plant them in pots in rich, well drained potting soil. Bring outdoors when all danger of frost is past

