Frequently Asked Questions

WILL THE FLOWERS FLOP OVER?
The flowers most often require some staking unless they are up against a wall and out of the wind. Often they grow to 4 or 5 feet tall and are too pretty to let be ruined in a storm.

DO DAHLIA MAKE GOOD CUT FLOWERS?
These make excellent cut flowers. Cut only the portion of the stem where the open flower is borne and no more than ½ of the total stem.

HOW DO I LIFT THESE IN FALL?
After the first frost, cut plants back leaving 6 inches of the stem. Dig them up if you live where winters drop below 30 degrees being careful not to harm the tuber in the soil. Work the soil off. Let dry in the sun for one day. Place in paper bags with dry peat moss. Store in cool dry area until late spring the following year.

WHAT IS NEEDED TO SUB DIVIDE THEM?
These roots will re-bloom every year. They can be subdivided in early spring after two years. Separate them making sure each section has a portion of old stem and a visible bud or "eye".

MY PLANT IS ALWAYS DROOPY?
Make sure to keep these moist all summer long. When they droop water them heavily. Wait 15 minutes and do it again. If they are potted you might consider potting them into a larger size container.

First Things First...

When your plant arrives from Roberta's, remove from the shipping box immediately.

Keep tubers inside packing material until ready to plant into ground or container. Put in a cool, protected area and plant as soon as possible.

When ready to plant, do the job as early in the day as possible to avoid extreme soil temperatures that prevent proper water uptake from the roots. Water them in well and whisper a few words of wisdom.

Thank you for your order!

Our goal is to enhance your gardening enjoyment by providing you with top quality, leading edge perennials and annuals that are suitable for your garden and home with the best service imaginable.

Roberta's is a 4th generation family owned business and has been one of the leading commercial exhibitors at flower and garden shows for over 50 years in the U.S and abroad. We search the globe to find easy-to-grow plants that are unique in themselves or their variety making them nearly impossible to find elsewhere. Our passion and commitment continually asks the question, "What makes a better, unsurpassed, and more beautiful flower to behold?"

Working with growers and breeders from all over the world, Roberta's is able to bring you hard-to-find plants and new species that will be sweethearts for years to come.

Thank you for bringing us into your home,

Eric, Kevin, and Koort Wallien

1-800-428-9726
Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm EST

Thank you
for bringing us into your home

www.robertasinc.com

Roberta's Gardens
Planting and Growing Guide

Exhibition Size
Over The Top Dahlia
(Dahlia hybrids)

Quick Reference Planting Guide

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE:	Full
USDA HARDINESS ZONES:	8-11
PLANTING DISTANCE:	18-24 inches
MATURE HEIGHT/SPREAD:	4 feet / 18-24 inches
BLOOM TIME:	Mid-Summer to Early Fall
PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS: (soil preparation, depth, which end is up, etc.)	Discard any unattached pieces of old roots or crown remnants. Plant the clumps with the roots facing downward and the old stem upwards. Water them thoroughly.

Planting Guide

1 STEP	Discard any unattached pieces of old roots or crown remnants. If planting into the garden itself, wait until night temperatures stay above 45 degrees. In pots or containers, you can plant immediately using one ten to twelve inch pot per root.
2 STEP	Plant the clumps with the roots facing downward and the old stem upwards. Your hole should be deep enough to accommodate the root. Leave the old stem portion above the soil line. The crown will be just below the surface. This is where the stem meets the root. Full sun is best.
3 STEP	Water them thoroughly. Once they sprout water again. Keep moist in summer.
4 STEP	In pots or containers, you can plant immediately using one ten to twelve inch pot per root. You should place the plants outside and leave them there as soon as evening temperatures stay above 45 degrees. Planted now each clump will produce impressive flowers in mid summer through early autumn and every year thereafter. They are hardy in the winter to about 35 degrees.

Continuing Care

KEY TIPS
Plants can take intense sun on the flowers and leaves. These plants have extended bloom time verses short small flowered dahlias. The stems prefer staking or some type of cage support. If you want to cut your stems for a flower vase, cut only the portion of the stem where the open flower is borne. Leave smaller flower buds on plant.

SHELF LIFE
Plant in pots immediately if desired. If planting into the garden itself, wait until night temperatures stay above 45 degrees.

PREPARATION
Discard any unattached pieces of old roots that may have occurred.

DETERMINING THE BOTTOM OR TOP OF CLUMPS
These clumps have roots radiating from a central point called the crown. Plant the clumps with the tubular roots facing downward and the old stem upwards.

GARDEN PREPARATION
Dig a hole about 8 inches deep and 10 inches wide.

POTTED PLANTS
These need at least ten inch pots or larger. Place outside when evenings stay above 45 degrees. Drainage holes are necessary.

SOIL
If your soil is clayish amend it with a standard garden soil for adequate drainage.

PLANTING DEPTH AND SPACING
Leave the old stem portion above the soil line. The crown, where the old stem meets the root, will be just below the surface. Space them at least 18 -24 inches apart. These multiply rapidly and like the room to grow.

SPROUTING TIME
Sprouts in May after a couple weeks. In the ground it takes a little longer if the temperatures are still cool.

WATER
Water thoroughly upon planting. Wait until they sprout for subsequent watering. Once they sprout keep the soil moist all summer long. This is vital to insure a long, sustainable blooming period.

FERTILIZER
This helps maintain flower size and count from year to year. For best results, use Roberta's Flower Magic Plant Food (M7503) twice a month all summer long.

LIGHTING
Full sun is preferred though half day is sufficient.

BLOOMING
These plants will bloom mid summer through early fall every year.

TEMPERATURE ZONE 8 to 11
If you live where winters drop below 35 degrees, bring the pots inside or dig them up.

WINTER DORMANCY
After the first frost, cut plants back leaving 6 inches of the stem. Dig them up if you live where winters drop below 35 degrees being careful not to harm the tuber in the soil. Work the soil off. Let dry in the sun for one day. Place in paper bags with dry peat moss. Store in cool dry area until late spring the following year.

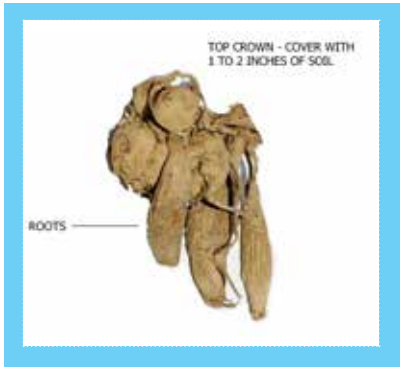
PROPAGATING
These roots will re-bloom every year. They can be subdivided in early spring after two years. Separate them making sure each section has a portion of old stem and a visible bud or "eye'.

GROOMING
Simply cut away bloomed out flowers after spent during the summer. This promotes new flowers.

CUT FLOWERS
If you want to cut your stems for a flower vase, cut only the portion of the stem where the open flower is borne. Leave the smaller flower buds on plant.

STAKING
The stems prefer staking or some type of cage support.

Additional Reference



Dahlia
Shipped As Shown

Kevin & Eric at breeder's trial garden in Holland

Dahlia Farm

Dahlia Garden

Over The Top Dahlia Garden