

Dahlia

Best Practices



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Propagation

Lights: Night-interruption lighting will reduce the likelihood of tuber formation.

- If daylength extension lighting is used, a daylength ≥ 14 , but ≤ 16 hours is recommended.
(Morning extension preferred)

Only need to be lit in prop! (If Finishing in natural long-days- 2019 & 2025 Culture Study
(Selecta Dahlias)



Media: EC: 0.75-0.80
pH: 5.5-5.8

Rooting IBA:
500-1000ppm (Basal Dip)
100-200ppm (Spray)

Media Temperature: 68-74°F
20-23°C

Propagation (cont.)

Fertilization: 75-100 ppm N when roots become visible

- **Increase to 150 to 200 ppm N as roots develop**
- **Avoid high phosphorous and ammoniacal nitrogen** during the rooting process to reduce stretch and unwanted vegetative growth.

Crop time: 3- 5 Wks (Can be done in as little as 3 Wks)



Picture to the left: URC is having an issue from stock or was not properly lit in prop.

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Finishing Temperatures & Strategy

Nights: 60-65°F Days: 65-75°F
15-18°C 18-24°C

- Temperatures significantly below this range will encourage tuber formation and delay flowering.
- Warmer than recommended temperatures will promote a more open habit and weak stems. Temperature induced “flop”.
- Negative-dif or 5F°(2C°) Morning-dip, can be used to control growth without significant delay.



Transplanting

Dahlia Liners should be **transplanted “DEEP”**

- The **1st set of leaves** are **below the media line** in the pot.
- If liners are **tall or stretched** sitting on the bench **prior to transplant** you can even **bury the liner another 2-3 nodes** below the media line in the pot.

This will help maintain the stability of the plant as it matures.



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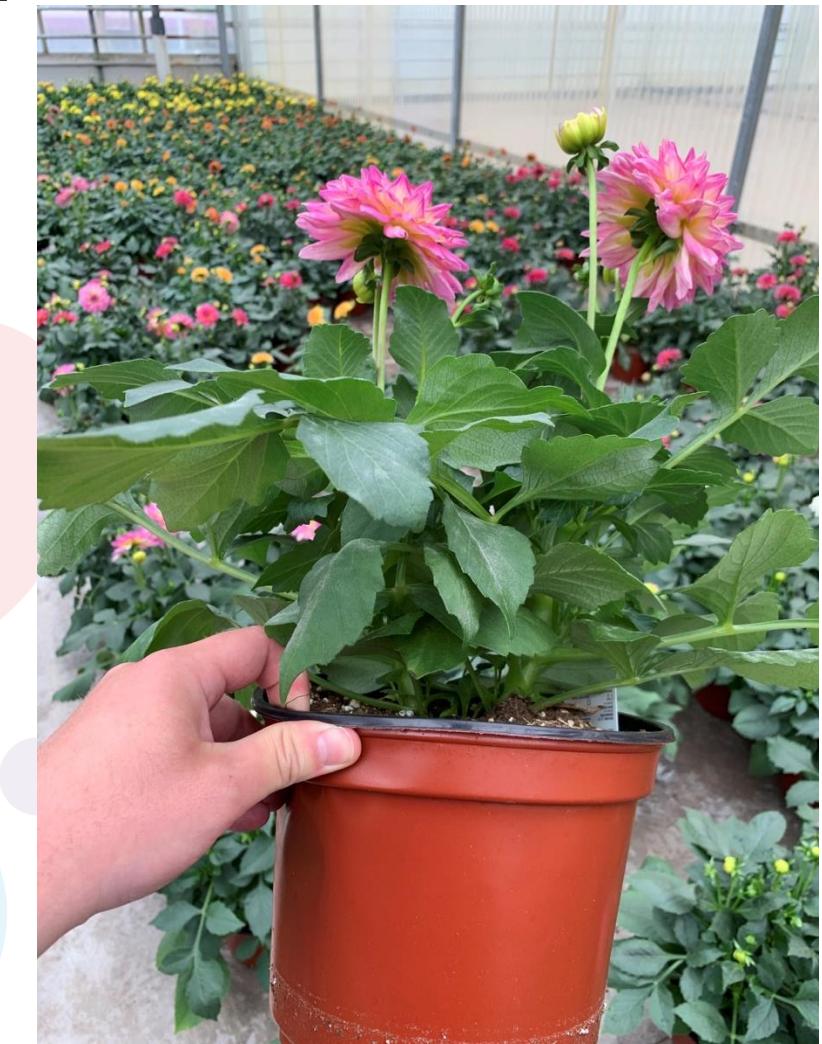
Dreaded “Floppy” Dahlias

#1 Issue with Finished Quality!



**“The flop” is
easy to prevent,
but hard to fix.**

**Prevented at
transplant from
liner to finish with
proper planting
depth.**



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Dreaded “Floppy” Dahlias

#1 Issue with Finished Quality!



**“The flop” is
easy to
prevent, but
hard to fix.**

**Plant “DEEP”
like the picture
to the right.**



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Pinch or No Pinch?



Answer: Depends on the pot size!

Smaller Pots (4-5in./QT):
Can be produced without a pinch

6in. : Grower choice

8in.+ : Pinch recommended



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Finishing PGRs

Dazide (1,000 to 2,500 ppm) &
Cycocel (500 to 1,000 ppm) spray tank mix.

- The first application should be made 14 to 21 days after transplanting or when active growth is visible

Dazide 2500-3700ppm: (Spray) To control peduncle stretch

Bonzi, Piccolo, Paclo

- **Sprays: 5-10 ppm**
- **Drenches: 1-3 ppm**

Note: Lower rates preferred. Avoid if possible.
Higher rates can lead to PGR application/color delay cycle that is hard to break.



Finish Daylengths:

14-hr cont.

ND 2WAT

ND 1WAT

ND 0WAT



ND= Natural Day length, All TP WK12 ~Equinox

WAT= Weeks after Transplant

Dalaya Purple White

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Finish Daylengths:

14-hr cont.

ND 2WAT

ND 1WAT

ND 0WAT



ND= Natural Day length, All TP WK12 ~Equinox

WAT= Weeks after Transplant

Dalaya Yellow

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Finish Daylengths:

14-hr cont.

ND 2WAT

ND 1WAT

ND 0WAT



ND= Natural Day length, All TP WK12 ~Equinox

WAT= Weeks after Transplant

Dalaya Fireball

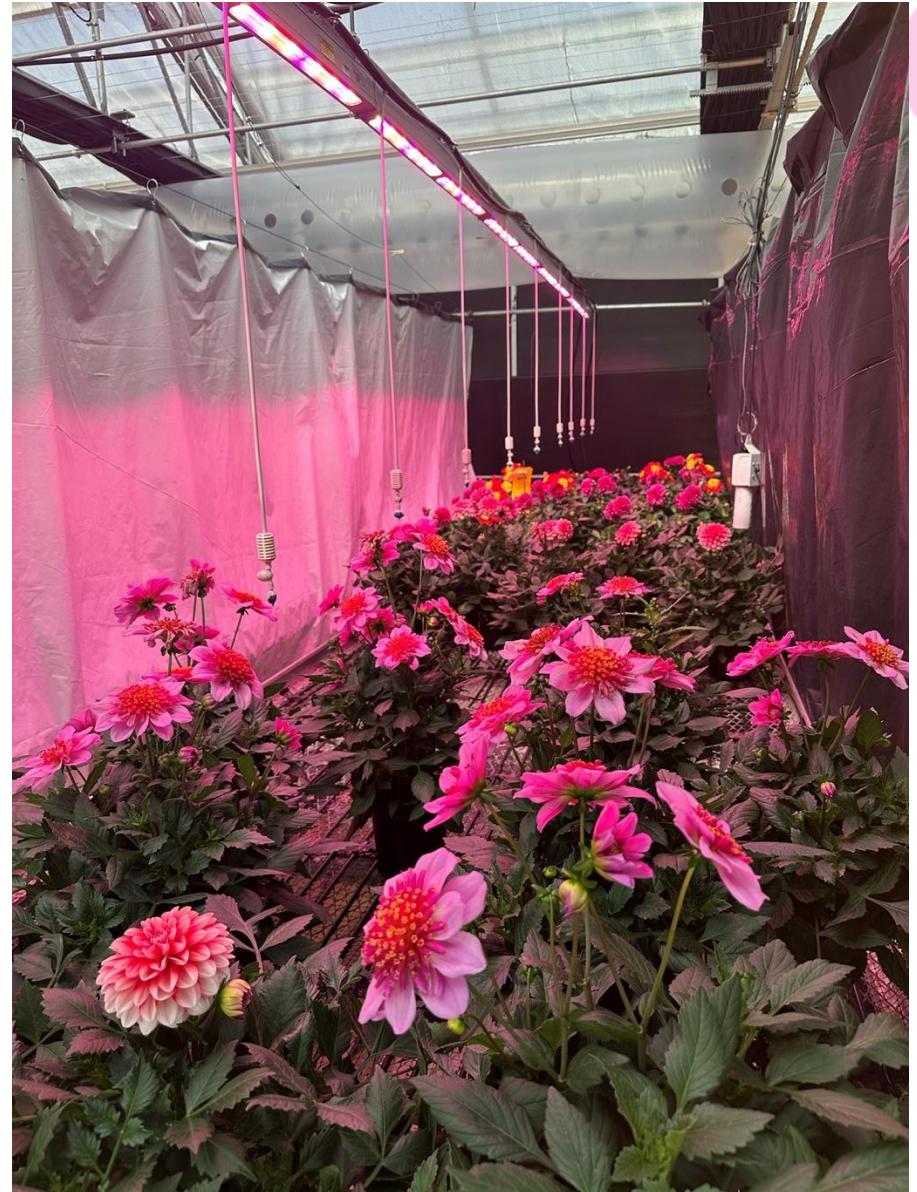
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Key Take-Aways on providing daylength extension when finishing in long-days.

≥12hrs Natural daylength = No need to provide supplemental daylength in finish.

≤11 Natural Daylength = Provide supplemental or extension to min. ≥ 14 hr daylength.

- With new breeding and selections, only provide additional daylength in propagation, when propagating in natural short-days and finishing in long-days.
- Additional daylength after transplant in long-days will delay flowering in some varieties.
- For a uniform timed crop across all colors, **DO NOT provide additional daylength when finishing in natural long-days.**



West Chicago Dahlia finishing Research

Powdery Mildew- Enemy #1

Prevention is the best most effective control.

Si has been used to enhance chemical preventative rotations and assist in warm weather transplant shock.

Weekly Silicon Applications (Ag-Sil)

- Drench 150ppm
 - (2.5oz/100gal or 1gallon stock solution 1:100 injector) SiO_2
- Once a week w/feed from the time of transplant to finish
- 6-8oz/pot
- Cannot be combined with any other sprays or drenches
- Silicon is hydrophilic. Do not leave bag opened (place in airtight container) – becomes hard and unusable.

In Addition to conventional prevention spray rotation that includes, but is not limited to products such as: Positiva, Mural, Seido Broadform, Avelyo, Palladium, Pipron

Powdery Mildew- Enemy #1

We screen heavily in selection process for any level of resistance for PM.
Below is us vs a competitor.



- **Thrips**: Will attack even immature plants with no open flowers, once flowers open, they seem to be as attractive to as gerberas- spray preventatively in rotation that attacks all life cycles.
- **Spidermites**: “Drying down” to hold finished plants, seems to send up a neon sign to spidermites “feed here”- spray preventatively before canopy closes.
- **Pythium**: Budded and in color, is not the time to switch “drying down” in place of a PGR for growth control, stress will allow pythium to attack.

Dahlia Venti 2.5 QT Spring Sample Schedule

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Crop Stage	Propagation (4 weeks)				Transplant Week 8	Finish Stage (8 weeks)											
	Week of Production	4	5	6	7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15					
Temperature	68-72°F 20-22°C	62-65°F 16-18°C				65°F ADT											
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dazide 2500ppm or Dazide 2500ppm + Cycocel 1000ppm if needed. <p>Remember: Not pinching liners and need to bury 1-2 nodes at TP, a taller liner than normal is not an issue with normal node formation.</p> <p>≥14Hr Day-length extension</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly applications of AgSi WK9 Spray 2500ppm Dazide or 2500ppm Dazide+1000ppm Cycocel Can grow with a negative-dif temperature strategy WK11 Final Space or when leaves begin to touch ~WK12 Paclo drench 1-2ppm ~WK13 Possible 2500ppm Dazide spray to control peduncle stretch 															