

Do not plant your dahlias in the open ground until the summer has fairly set in, and all danger from frost is passed, for it is very sensitive to frost. When the season has advanced and you find that the weather is becoming hot and dry, then mulch your dahlias by covering the ground over the roots for the distance of two feet around the plants with two or three inches of half-rotted stable manure, and if you wish to hide this from view, throw a slight covering of surface-soil over it. This will keep the moisture that is in the soil from evaporating too rapidly, and when there is rain, it will afford some additional stimulant and nourishment to the plant. Should the weather continue dry, your dahlia will well repay you for your trouble if you will water it every evening after the sun is down, pouring the water all over the plant through the fine rose of a watering pot that will hold a good pailful of water.

After the season is over, and the autumn frosts have blackened your beautiful dahlias, then cut them off at about four inches from the ground, take up the tubers, let them dry for a couple of hours, then pack them in a box of dry soil and store them away in a perfectly frost-proof cellar until wanted for another season.

If it is desired to multiply the number of plants, this can be done by splitting the stalk down, in the spring, just before planting out, taking care that there is a bud on each piece. These buds will be found at or near the collar of the old stalk that you will split up

to increase your stock of plants. They may be also increased by cuttings of the young shoots. To do this advantageously, cover the tubers of the old plant lightly with soil, leaving the collar exposed, and place it where it may have light and heat sufficient to induce growth. When the young shoots have grown to the length of three or four inches, cut them off so as to leave a couple of buds on the part remaining attached to the plant. Set each of these cuttings in a thumb pot filled with pure sand, place them on a gentle bottom heat and shade them from the sun. In a fortnight or three weeks they will have emitted roots. They should be then re-potted into three-inch pots, filled with light, friable soil, and kept well shaded from the sun until they begin to grow. During all this time, water cautiously, keeping the sand or the soil moist but not wet. The buds left on the portion of the shoot attached to the old plant will grow into other shoots in due time; these may be cut off in the same manner and rooted in the same way, and the process repeated as long as desired.

When these rooted cuttings have become well established, they will no longer require shading from the sun, but should be gradually inured to the sun and air, or as the gardeners term it, "hardened off," so that when the summer has come and all danger of frost is over, they may be planted in the open ground in the manner already above mentioned, and treated during the growing season in the same way as