

result from the carelessness of unscrupulous nurserymen being anxious to secure more roots than his stock of cuttings will allow. Instead of making the base of his cutting the portion of the stem from which the branches shoot, he cuts his sprig half way between the branching parts. This will strike all right and produce a plant, but will invariably produce a blind tuber, which any amateur and most professionals would not recognize as such.

To obtain the best results and have the longest season of Dahlias, it is necessary to get, about the end of April or the beginning of May, wiry, small-stemmed plants, or the small tubers, I have just described, plant them firmly in four inch pots in specially prepared soil of one part loam or decayed sod, one part sand and one part well decayed manure; the remains of the former years hot beds, is the best, as the manure does not do to be too strong. Plunge the pots in an active hot bed, with sides rather higher than the ordinary frame to allow the plant to grow to a good size without pressing against the glass. The frame should be kept open during the day time as much as possible even on cold days when there is sunshine and no frost, and closed at night, having a covering of canvass or old carpet handy to protect it from our cold frosty nights, in April and May. When the four inch pots are filled with roots I find it best to change to six inch, keeping the plants in the frame till they are well developed, and even showing buds freely. They should be watered carefully every day in bright weather, and when the buds begin to show, given their first feeding of liquid manure, not too strongly at first. About the first or second week in June you may prepare for transplanting to your border. To grow Dahlias properly, they should have a border to themselves, on the south side of a wall or fence, protected also on the west by a hedge or by hardy shrubs, as the plants are very easily knocked about by our strong winds. The ordinary Manitoba soil is too heavy for the Dahlias, so if the location is not a sandy one, I would recommend placing prepared soil around the roots when planting out. I dig a hole for each plant about a foot or a foot and a half square, placing in this