

propagated either by seed or by division of the root. The seeds should be treated like tender annuals, sown in the house in February or March and transplanted to two-inch pots and plunged into a hot bed in April or the beginning of May. The flowers, however, seldom amount to anything the first year, but the tubers will form during the summer, and if taken up in the autumn, carefully dried in a shady, well-ventilated place, and housed during the winter in a cool, dry cellar; they will be capable of producing fine flowers next year by merely placing them in the soil like potatoes after danger from frost is over. The roots may be divided into several parts, but great care must be taken to see that each part has an eye. These buds or eyes are not scattered all over the tuber as in a potato, but collected in a ring round the collar of the root. The eye, when the root is in a dry state, is scarcely perceptible, and nurserymen, to discover it, have often to place the tubers on a forcing bench or hot bed to start the eye, that is, to force the latent bud forward sufficiently to show where it is situated, before they can divide the plant to form new roots. Gardeners, as a rule, don't divide the roots, however, but they place the tubers in sand in a forcing bench with a strong bottom heat, early in February, and when the shoot is of sufficient size, they take cuttings which they also strike in sand. Small tubers are also grown to facilitate forwarding by mail, and these are obtained by growing the young plant in a very small pot and allowing the root to form, about the size and shape of a large walnut and then letting the plant dry off or wither. This is the best form of shipping Dahlias by mail, as these small tubers are a convenient size and just ready to spring when put in a pot. They can be brought from England or any distant land carefully packed, without any danger from frost early in the season, and can be brought well forward in the house in pots before time for transplanting to the garden. Care must be taken however, that you purchase these only from the most reliable dealers, or you may find many of them turn out to be blind or barren tubers, which will fill the pot with roots, but show no signs of growth above the earth. These blind tubers

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