

# AgBud



A series of horticulture insights

## Did you know?

Dahlias are perennials, but most of the time are grown as an annual because their tuberous roots can be harmed in temperatures 25°F and below.

## Overview

- This herbaceous perennial plant was named after Swedish botanist Anders Dahl.
- Dahlias belong to the same family as daisies, sunflowers and chrysanthemums.
- Dahlias are unique in that they are octoploids, meaning they have eight sets of chromosomes, while most plants only have two.
- Most dahlias are fragrant free.

## Production

The first double flowering dahlia was created in 1815.

There are over 40 species and several sub-species that are available in a variety of colors, shapes and sizes.

It is recommended to cut them early mornings, later in the evenings, or after watering.

# Dahlia

**Kingdom:** Plantae

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Genus:** Dahlia

**Species:** 42 recognized species

## History

- The Aztecs grew them as a food crop, but the practice stopped after the Spanish Conquest.
- They originated from Mexico, and were first recorded in 1615.
- Dahlias were once classified as a vegetable because their tubers are edible. The tubers are said to taste like a mixture of sweet potatoes and radishes.
- The petals were often used for skin irritations and insect bites.

Sources: [plants.ces.ncsu.edu](https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu), [justfunfacts.com](https://justfunfacts.com), [bhg.com/gardening](https://bhg.com/gardening), [dahlia.org](https://dahlia.org)

## Dahlia Anatomy

