

Dahlia

Dahlightful[®], Dalina[®], and Mystic Illusion



NUTRITION

pH: 5.8 – 6.2

EC: (2:1 extraction method) .6 – .9

Constant feeding at 100ppm – 150ppm nitrogen with a fertilizer selected for grower's water quality and soil mix is recommended.

TEMPERATURE

Rooting out: 65 – 72 F

Growing on: 65 – 70 F

Holding: 60 – 65 F

WATERING

Maintain moderate soil moisture. Allow the soil to cycle from moist to dry. Avoid both severe dry downs/wilting and long periods of wet soil, especially at cooler temperatures.

TIMING

4" – 5": 5 – 6 weeks with one 84 or 104 Liner plant per container.

6"/1GL Royale™: 6 – 7 weeks with one 84 or 104 Liner plant per container.

8": 8 – 9 weeks with one 84 or 104 Liner plant per container.

10" – 12" Hanging Basket: 10 – 12 weeks with one to three 84 or 104 Liner plants per container.

Dahlightful[®] are good for all container sizes, Dalina[®] Midi are best suited for 4" – 5" containers, and Dalina Grande and Mystic Illusion are suited for 6" and larger containers.

PLANTING

The 84 and 104 Liner plants should be planted into a well-drained soil mix selected to match individual water quality and fertilizer blends. It is helpful when planting to do so in such a way that the lowest set of leaves are planted just below the soil surface. By planting slightly deeper, additional roots will develop on this upper portion of the existing root ball.

Water in thoroughly without saturating the mix and maintain a constant moderate soil moisture level for the first seven to 10 days to establish new rooting. Plants have already been pinched and further pinching should not be needed, except in the case of taller material at time of planting or a second pinch on plants for larger containers. This second pinch can be given on an "as needed" basis for larger containers, usually three to four weeks after planting.

LIGHT/LIGHTING

These plants should be grown in a high light area of the greenhouse for optimal flowering and plant development.

Under short day conditions, *Dahlias* require long-day lighting to grow and flower properly. Plants need long-day lighting through week 13 (end of March). Prior to week 13, plants should be given 14-hour days by using daylength extension lighting. Dalina Midi and Grande *Dahlias* are more daylength sensitive than Dahlightful or Mystic Illusion *Dahlias*.

If long-day lighting is not supplied before week 13, the plants will flower early, plants will be smaller, tubers will form, plant vigor will decline, and plants can be lost due to root rot caused by overwatering and overfertilizing.

GROWTH REGULATORS

A spray application of B-Nine[®] (daminozide) at 1,500ppm – 2,500ppm can be applied as required for Dalina Midi and Grande, and for Mystic Illusion. Dalina Midi are smaller and less vigorous. They will require fewer, if any, PGR treatments, at the lower rate. **The Dalina Grande and Dahlightful may require PGR treatments, while Mystic Illusion will require the most PGR attention.**

For ease in growing, watering, fertilizing, and applying PGRs, grow separately in three groups: 1) Dalina Midi, 2) Dalina Grande and Dahlightful, and 3) Mystic Illusion.

PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

A broad spectrum fungicide such as Banrot[®] (etridiazole plus thiophanate-methyl) can be applied at transplant, if desired. In poor growing conditions, Botrytis or Powdery Mildew can develop. A preventative spray of a fungicide such as Compass[®] (trifloxystrobin) can be made if Powdery Mildew has been a problem. Whiteflies, Thrips, and Aphids can be pests of concern.

OUTDOOR GROWING SCHEDULE

Due to long day requirements and sensitivity to frost and severe cold, *Dahlias* are best grown as a finished crop indoors.

OTHER TIPS

- Provide proper growing environment and good air movement.
- Supply long-day lighting with production before April 1st.
- Growing at cooler-than-recommended temperatures will delay flowering and lead to longer crop times.



Four Star Greenhouse | www.PWfourstar.com | 734-654-6420

The rates and chemicals listed are based on our southeast Michigan growing conditions, and are not recommended for nationwide application. Please adjust the rates and spray applications to your location and facility.