



# Dahlia Information Booklet

## 2023/24

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**Festival Edition - Updated August 2023**



**Aylett Nurseries**



# The Dahlia Collection

We are delighted to share with you our current list of Dahlias.

We would like to invite you to come and visit the Dahlia field and Celebration Garden this summer, you will be able to see the plants growing either in the A-Z under variety name or those marked with an asterisk (the Colleretes and shorter Bedding varieties) in the Celebration Garden. We have planted over 4,000 plants in the A-Z and many more in the garden. Planted during the first week of June we expect to see the first flowers in early August, there will then be a blaze of colour until the frost of Autumn – It really is a sight not to be missed!

The tubers from these plants will provide our stock for the 2024 season and providing they propagate well early next year they will form our catalogue of plants available for sale next spring. Young Dahlia plants will be available to purchase in 11cm pots from the Seasonal bedding greenhouse between the middle of April and the end of June 2024. Follow the Aylett recipe and these young plants will grow, flower, and produce tubers in your garden which can be stored or if you are feeling brave left in the ground and may shoot the following year. And so, the cycle repeats itself.

The Dahlia field and Celebration Garden are open during garden centre opening hours throughout the summer for you to walk round, choose your favourites and enjoy the riot of colour. We are part of the National Garden Scheme and are grateful for any donations in the box at the top of the garden.

Our annual Autumn Festival will take place between the 26th of August and 10th September 2023. Do put a date in your diary and join us for this celebration of our famous home-grown Dahlias. Refreshments are served in the tea tent, all freshly prepared by Seasons. Visit our website for more information about the event on [www.aylettnurseries.co.uk](http://www.aylettnurseries.co.uk)

We hope you enjoy the field and garden during the summer.

*The Aylett Family*

# Classification & Formation of Blooms

As you will see from the flowers on the dahlia field, dahlias come in many different shapes, and in our list they are categorised following the National Dahlia Society guidelines into their different formations such as Collerette, Waterlily, Decorative, Ball, Cactus, Semi Cactus, Pompon to name some of the most popular. Overall, there are 15 different classifications if you are interested in exhibiting dahlias, we recommend you look at the Societies website on [www.dahlia-nds.co.uk](http://www.dahlia-nds.co.uk). If you are selecting varieties to grow in your garden, choose a selection of formations and sizes to achieve the most variety in the border.

**The Abbreviation AGM** after the cultivar name indicates that the variety has been awarded an Award of Garden Merit by the Royal Horticultural Society. These awards are made to plants that have been submitted to trial at the RHS trial grounds around the United Kingdom. Plants that do not have this award may not have been submitted to the selection process and are therefore not eligible for the AGM but possibly have the same garden merits.

## Size of Flowers

Certain classifications have been subdivided depending on the size of the flower - these are as follows:

### Miniature Flowered

These cultivars have blooms usually not exceeding 100mm (4.ins) in diameter.

### Small Flowered

These cultivars have blooms usually between 100mm (4ins) and 150mm (6ins).

### Medium Flowered

These cultivars have blooms usually between 150mm (6ins) and 200mm (8ins).

### Large Flowered

These cultivars have blooms usually between 200mm (8ins) and 250mm (10ins).

### Giant Flowered

These cultivars have blooms usually over 250mm (10ins) in diameter.

**Height** The heights given in the list are a guide only; the ultimate height will depend upon weather conditions and position in the garden.

**The Symbol** \* after the cultivar name indicates that this variety can be found in the Celebration Garden rather than the A-Z of the field.

# **Dahlia List 2023**

## **Alva's Doris AGM**

### **Small-flowered Cactus**

Height – 120cm

Deepest blood red.

Prize winning cultivar that is very free flowering.

## **Alva's Supreme AGM**

### **Giant-flowered Decorative**

Height – 120cm

Delightful yellow flowers. Suitable for exhibition.

## **Audacity**

### **Medium-flowered Decorative**

Height - 120cm

Rosy pink, mauve and white blends.

## **Aurora's Kiss**

### **Miniature Ball**

Height – 120cm

Dark red blooms.

Make an excellent cut flower.

New to our list for 2023.

## **Bargaly Blush**

### **Medium Decorative**

Height 150cm

Deep rose pink with excellent formation.

## **Bishop of Llandaff AGM**

### **Paeony flowered**

Height – 90cm

Bright crimson blooms of 9cm (3ins) diameter over dark bronze foliage.

One of the oldest cultivars available and justifiably popular with our visitors.

## **Blyton Softer Gleam AGM**

### **Small Ball**

Height – 120cm

Lovely soft orange with paler base.

## **Blue Bayou\***

### **Anemone centred**

Height - 60cm

Lavender purple with darker cushioned centre. Free flowering.

Lovely addition to the border.

## **Blueberry Hill\***

### **U Collerette**

*Raised by the late Ken stock.*

Height – 105cm

White collar, cerise petals edged with white.

## **Café au Lait**

### **Giant Decorative**

Height – 120cm

Large flowers of creamy, peach shades.

## **Cameo**

### **Waterlily**

Height – 120cm

Beautifully formed cream flowers with yellow base.

## **Carstone Firebox**\*

### **Collerette**

Height – 90cm

Blends of orange, red and peach. Very free flowering.

## **Chimborazo**

### **Collerette**

Height – 120cm

Dark maroon with a yellow collar and disc.

## **David Howard** AGM

### **Miniature-flowered Decorative**

Height - 120cm

Lovely burnt orange blooms on dark foliage. A very popular variety for the border.

## **Dawn Sky**

### **Small-flowered Decorative**

Height – 120cm

Shell pink bloom, long stem. Ideal cut flower cultivar.

## **Dikara Superb**

### **Miniature Decorative**

Height – 120cm

Lovely sugar pink.

## **Downham Peggy**

### **U Large Pompom**

Height - 150cm

Blooms of dusky shades of purple with lighter blends.

New to our list for 2023.

## **Finchcocks** AGM

### **Waterlily**

Height – 120cm

Shades of salmon orange. Very free flowering.

## **Formby Art**

### **Small Decorative**

Height - 120cm

Stylish globular, white blooms with pink tips. Very strong growth.

## **Gloire Van Heemstede** AGM

### **Waterlily**

Height-135cm

Primrose yellow blooms, extremely free flowering. An old variety but still good.

## **Hadrian's Glowing Embers**\*

### **Single Flowered**

Height – 90cm

Single blooms or peachy-orange with red centres. Very dark foliage.

All Hadrian varieties are raised by our friends at Halls of Heddon.

## **Hadrian's Midnight**\*

### **Single Flowered**

Height – 100cm

Deep red with dark centres on dark foliage.

## **Hadrian's Sunlight**\*

### **Single Flowered**

Height – 90cm

Masses of yellow flowers.

Very attractive to bees and butterflies.

## **Hamari Accord AGM**

### **Large flowered Semi-Cactus**

Height – 120cm

Broad petalled clear yellow blooms carried on stems well above foliage.

## **Hillcrest Firecrest**

### **Small Decorative**

Height – 120cm.

Bright yellow with orange red tips.

Good border variety.

## **Hillcrest Jonathan**

### **Small Decorative**

Height - 120cm

Blends of rich lavender purple to white.

Free flowering and good stems make this a good cut flower variety.

## **Hillcrest Royal AGM**

### **Medium Cactus**

Height - 120cm

Richest purple flowers that stand out in the border.

## **Honka AGM**

### **Star**

Height – 90cm

Single yellow star-shaped flowers.

A Butterflies dream.

## **Jescot Julie**

### **Double Orchid-flowered**

Height – 90cm

Orchid flowered with blooms 5-10cm in diameter. Burnt orange with plum reverse; with fewer than normal petals, being of unusual formation.

Ideal for floral artists.

*Named for Julie Aylett in 1974.*

## **Josudi Mercury**

### **U Miniature Semi Cactus**

Height - 120cm

Coppery bronze blooms.

New to our list for 2023.

## **Josudi Neptune**

### **U Miniature Semi Cactus**

Height - 120cm

Eye-catching blooms with a creamy white base and magenta tips.

New to our list for 2023.

## **Kenora Macop**

### **Medium Fimbriated Cactus**

Height - 150cm

Stunning velvety red flowers.

## **Kenora Valentine AGM**

### **Large Decorative Dahlia**

Height – 125cm

Bright scarlet with well-formed blooms.

## **Kens Rarity**

### **Waterlily**

Height – 120cm

Sugar pink with a yellow base. Very free flowering. A good border variety.

## **Kilburn Fiesta**

### **Medium Cactus**

Height – 150cm

Salmon pink with lemon base. Early flowering.

## **L'Ancrese**

### **Miniature Ball**

Height – 105cm

White with a very faint lavender flush if any at all.

## **L.A.T.E**

### **Miniature Ball**

Height – 150cm

Orange and peach blends. Very free flowering.

## **Le Feu Du Soleil**

### **Medium Fimbriated Cactus**

Height – 150cm

Vivid eye-catching bright orange blooms on a yellow base.

## **Mabel Ann**

### **Giant-flowered Decorative**

Height – 105cm

Huge blooms of apricot with pale yellow centre.

## **Madame Stappers<sup>✽</sup>**

### **Dwarf Paeony**

Height 60cm

Bright scarlet flowers on dark foliage, very free flowering, an old variety.

We also feature this variety in the front border.

## **Magenta Magenta<sup>✽</sup>**

### **Miniature-flowered Decorative**

**Raised by the late Ken Stock**

Height- 60cm

Rich magenta flowers. Very free flowering. Good for the front of the border.

## **Maika Girl<sup>✽</sup>**

### **U Double Orchid**

**Raised by the late Ken Stock**

Height - 75cm

A very pretty mixture of lilac and white.

## **Mayan Pearl AGM**

### **Double Orchid**

**Raised by the late Ken Stock**

Height – 90cm

Silvery pink flowers. Very free flowering. A lovely Dahlia for the border.

## **Megan Dean**

### **Miniature Ball**

Height 150cm

Lavender pink with white base.

Excellent form.

## **Moonfire<sup>✽</sup> AGM**

### **Single Dwarf Bedder**

Height – 60cm

Deep gold flowers with vermillion centre usually 6cms in diameter, bronze foliage.

A must for any border.

## **Ms Kennedy**

### **Large Pompom**

Height – 120cm

Rich flame orange. A strong grower, remove dead heads to prolong flowering.

## **Murillo<sup>✽</sup>**

### **Single Dwarf Bedder**

Height – 45cm

Bright lilac pink blooms with darker eye.

Very free flowering. Makes a showy addition to the border.

## **Nargold**

### **Medium-flowered Fimbriated Cactus**

Height – 105cm

Rich orange blooms with yellow flush at base. Fimbriated petals. Very striking.

## **Oretti Bliss**

### **Small Cactus**

Height - 120cm

Superb white blooms of excellent form.  
A good exhibition variety.

## **Pam Howden**

### **Waterlily**

Height - 120cm

Lovely peachy orange blooms on strong stems.

## **Park Princess**✽

### **Dwarf Bedder**

Height - 60cm

Double pink cactus flowers with lighter centre.

## **Pasodoble** AGM

### **Anemone Flowered**

Height – 105cm

Bright yellow central tubular florets, which are fimbriated, surrounded by flattened ring of pale-yellow outer petals.

## **Pooh** AGM

### **Collerette**

Height – 100cm

Scarlet tipped yellow blooms, with a yellow collar. A real eye catcher.

## **Preston Park**✽ AGM

### **Single Dwarf Bedder**

Height - 45cm

Bright scarlet blooms, nearly black foliage.

## **Roxy**✽

### **Single, Dwarf Bedder**

Height - 45cm

Lovely single magenta/purple flowers on dark foliage. Very eye catching.

## **Royal Blood**✽

### **Collerette**

### **Raised by the late Ken stock**

Height – 105cm

Deep velvet red petals with yellow centre.

## **Ryecroft Jim**

### **Anemone**

Height - 90cm

Cerise flowers with a gold cushion centre.

## **Ryecroft Laura**

### **Miniature Ball**

Height – 120cm

Intense Yellow blooms with good form.

## **Shandy**

### **Small-flowered Semi-Cactus**

Height – 105cm

Sparkling shades of apricot and salmon.  
Early flowering

## **Sheval Megan**

### **Small-flowered Decorative**

Height – 120cm

Vivid red unfading blooms.  
Excellent form. Wonderful cut flowers on strong stems.

## **Sir Alf Ramsey**

### **Giant-flowered Decorative**

Height – 105cm

Immense blooms of Lavender-Pink with a white base.



## **Small World AGM**

### **Pompon**

Height – 105cm

Perfectly formed white pompon.

## **Sorbet**

### **Medium Semi-cactus**

Height – 120cm

White with heavily tipped petals of rosy purple. Ruby red. Very free flowering.

## **Spartacus**

### **Large-flowered Decorative**

Height – 120cm

Dark velvety red with pointed reflex petals. A superb variety.

## **Summit Festival**

### **Waterlily**

Height - 120cm

Blooms of orange, yellow and rose blends.

New to our list for 2023.

## **Trelyn Seren<sup>✿</sup>**

### **Single Star**

Height - 105cm

Pale Pink with yellow centre. Very attractive to Bees. Cut when flowers are young.

## **Totally Tangerine**

### **Anemone Flowered**

Height – 80-90cm

Blooms are made up of a single row of orange pink petals surrounding a centre of rusty orange tubular florets.

A real eye-catcher!

New to our list for 2023.

## **Twynings After Eight AGM**

### **Single**

Height - 100cm

White single flowers with a hint of pale pink. Very attractive contrast in a mixed border.

## **Westerton Ella Grace**

### **Miniature Decorative**

Height - 120cm

Very soft lilac flowers with white base.

## **Weston Pirate AGM**

### **Miniature-flowered Cactus**

Height – 100cm

Deep blood red blooms suitable for exhibition or borders, very free flowering.

## **White Alva's AGM**

### **Giant-flowered Decorative**

Height – 120cm

Lovely white formal blooms, suitable for exhibition.

## **White Ballet AGM**

### **Waterlily**

Height – 120cm

Pure white blooms freely produced. A must for floral artists!

## **White Swallow**

### **Small cactus**

Height – 50cm

Superb white flowers, a good cut flower variety.

# The Aylett Recipe for Best Results...

Dahlias grow best in a water-retentive soil but one that drains freely. They flower prolifically when planted in a sunny site sheltered from strong winds. The soil preparation should begin during the winter with plenty of organic matter being dug into the soil. Ideally the following spring at about 3-4 weeks before planting a slow acting fertilizer such as Bonemeal should be forked into the soil.



## Spacing

Dahlias require plenty of room to develop, ideally 60cm-90cm (2ft -3ft) between plants, the larger the flower the larger the space. The Bedding Dahlias require less space and can be planted as close as 22cm-30cm (9-12ins) these then can be grown without staking although if the site is prone to winds they will benefit from short canes between the plants.

## Planting Out

Dahlias should not be planted out until all fear of frosts is past; normally this is the end of May beginning of June. All sites differ and its best to keep an ear to your local forecasts, often a covering of frost protection material is all it needs to prevent your plants from being damaged.

Before planting water, the young plants well. Plant in a good quality compost, firstly, because it retains moisture to help plant growth, and secondly, when the tuber is lifted in autumn, compost falls away, leaving a clean tuber. Make a hole 20cm square and 20cms deep and put in half a bucket of compost and mix with a small quantity of Fish, Blood and Bone (about a dessert spoon full). Make sure this is well mixed with the compost so that the roots of the plant are not in direct contact. Insert a strong cane or stake into the hole. Remove the plant from the pot taking care not to disturb the root ball. With a hand trowel, place the plant next to the stake and firm in well.

Plant so that the final soil level is just below the lowest leaves – and give a good soaking with water. Remember to label each plant.

Tying up immediately after planting is a good idea and will protect the young plants from strong winds that might cause damage. It is also a good idea to apply a dressing around the plant with a mulch. On the nursery we use a product called Strulch which we highly recommend. It not only keeps the moisture from evaporating but also discourages slugs, suppresses weeds and has the added advantage of improving the soil structure for the next season. It is available to purchase from the garden centre in the compost area.

## Stopping



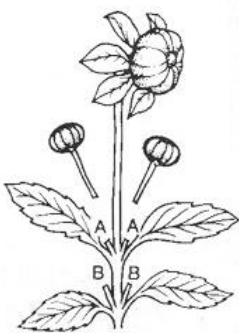
'Stopping' is the removal of the growing tip when about four pairs of leaves have been formed. Nip out the tip just above the third pair of leaves but avoid squashing the stem.

Strong side shoots will develop at the leaf joints, to form the framework of the plant. Plants have often been stopped by us before you purchase so as to produce a stronger plant. If you are planning to exhibit and like to regulate your stopping times, unstopped plants are usually available.

## Growing on and Feeding

Dahlias can suffer from the usual garden pests; Earwigs seem to be the one that most customers talk about. We have never found these to be a problem, but slugs can be and do like the young plants in particular. Later in the season, especially if it has been dry and hot, dahlias can suffer with mildew, this takes the form of a white powdery coating on the leaves and stem. One of the key ways to grow a healthy plant is to ensure that plants are well fed and watered, so they do not become stressed and more susceptible to disease. However, should your plants be attacked by pest or disease, among the broad range of plant protection products that we offer you will find there are many methods to control pests and disease whether its prevention, repelling or controlling - choose one that suits your gardening habits best, talk to our expert team for advice.

## Disbudding



Disbudding is the removal of the buds that form at the leaf axils; this has the effect of producing long stemmed quality blooms. As a general rule the first two pairs of buds below the terminal bud are removed. The number of buds or growths removed will influence the size of the flower. This process is necessary if you intend to exhibit your Dahlias.

For a good garden display disbudding is not always necessary. As each terminal bud flowers and becomes past its best, carefully remove it to allow the side shoots to develop. All old flowers should be removed to encourage further side buds to develop and flower.



## Lifting and Storing of Tubers

Dahlia tubers should not be lifted until after a frost. They should be cut down to 6ins from soil level and carefully dug up. Take care not to damage the crown as it is from this point that next year's shoots emerge.

Tubers should be dried and it is advisable to stand them upside down in order to allow moisture in the stems to drain away. Ideally, they should be put in wooden boxes, packed with vermiculite, straw or even newspaper to stop them drying out and kept in a frost-free place. Most garden sheds and garages are not frost proof. They should not be kept in too warm a place as they will shrivel or a cold damp situation where they will rot. It is advisable to examine tubers several times in the winter and if, any trace of rot is found, they should be treated with a protection fungicide.

## The Celebration Garden – Open all Year –



Please share your photos  
#celebrationgarden  
@aylettnurseries



As part of our celebrations for our 60 years as a Nursery and Garden Centre, in 2015 we created a special garden within our Dahlia Field. Called the Celebration Garden its aim was to demonstrate just how versatile and valuable Dahlias can be when planted in a garden.

The Celebration Garden raises funds for the National Garden Scheme, in 2022 we raised £1,306.91! Thank you for your generosity. For more information visit [nsg.org.uk](http://nsg.org.uk)

Our Celebration Garden is located adjacent to the Garden Centre, and can be accessed through the gates at the top end of our car park, during our usual opening hours.