

ADS Dahlia University – Dahlia Forms and Sizes

Dahlias come in many forms and sizes.

AA	Giant	Over 10"
A	Large	8 to 10"
B	Medium	6 to 8"
BB	Small	4 to 6"
M	Miniature	2" to 4"
MC	Micro	Up to 2"

The next six forms pictured and defined below may come in in the sizes above.

Formal Decorative (FD)

Ray florets (petals) generally flat, broad and smooth in a regular arrangement that gradually recurve toward the stem. The shape is perfectly symmetrical.



Clearview Butterscotch

Informal Decorative (ID)

The ray florets (petals) are twisted, curled, or wavy and of uniform size in an irregular arrangement. They may be partially involute (curved toward the face) or revolute (curved back).



Hollyhill Black Beauty

Straight Cactus (C)

Ray florets (petals) are narrow at the base, straight, uniform in length, and reflex toward the stem radiating uniformly from the center. They are revolute (curved to the underside) for most of their length and fully revolute for at least half of their length.



Carol's Spanish Dancer

Semi Cactus (SC)

Ray florets (petals) are broad at the base, straight or incurved, and reflex toward the stem in a uniform arrangement. They are revolute for approximately half their length and fully revolute for at least a fourth of their length.



Jackie Evangelista

Incurved Cactus (IC)

Ray florets (petals) are pointed, narrow at the base, uniform in length and arrangement. They are fully revolute for at least half their length. They will curve upward to the bloom face, arc downward and then up, or swirl horizontally.



Jackie Mae Staas

Lacinated (LC)

Ray florets (petals) are split at the tip with the number and depth of the splits varying according to the size of the ray floret. The portion of the ray floret that is split should uniformly twist or curl giving a fringed effect.



Angela Dodi

The other forms (listed below) each have a specific size designation.

Ball (BA), Miniature Ball (MB), Pompon (P)



Jackie's Red Devil

Blooms are ball-shaped with uniform ray florets (petals), involute (rolled forward). The petals will reflex toward the stem, completely filling the floral head, and are rounded or blunt without notches/points. Ball size is over 3.5 inches in diameter. Miniature Ball is 2 to 3.5 inches in diameter. Pompon is up to 2 inches in diameter.

Stellar (ST), Micro Stellar (MST)



Baron Ron

Ray florets (petals) are long and narrow along the length with pointed tips preferred, like a star. Petals will recurve toward the stem. Standard flower is over 2 inches in diameter. Micro or Mignon is up to 2 inches.

Waterlily (WL), Micro Waterlily (MWL)



Cameo

Cupped ray florets (petals) with rounded tips. The side view should be flat or saucer-shaped. A Waterlily should have 4-7 rows of fully developed petals. A Micro Waterlily may have less rows. Standard flower is over 2 inches in diameter. Micro or Mignon is up to 2 inches.

Novelty Fully Double (NX), Micro Novelty Fully Double (MNX)

Will have a form distinct from other defined forms. Must display good symmetry, a tight closed center, and have uniformly shaped ray florets (petals). Standard flower is over 2 inches in diameter. Micro or Mignon is up to 2 inches.

Peony (PE), Micro Peony (MPE)



Elvira

Two to five rows of ray florets (petals) around an open center. Petals are broad, slightly cupped, arranged in a flat plane. Standard flower is over 2 inches in diameter. Micro or Mignon is up to 2 inches.

Anemone (AN), Micro Anemone (MAN)



Baron Waiva

A dome of elongated tubular disc florets (petals), surrounded by one or more rows of ray florets (petals), balanced and framing the dome center. Standard flower is over 2 inches in diameter. Micro or Mignon is up to 2 inches.

Novelty Open (NO), Micro Novelty Open (MNO)

Will have a form distinct from other defined forms. The center should be open and in proportion to the ray florets (petals). Standard flower is over 2 inches in diameter. Micro or Mignon is up to 2 inches.

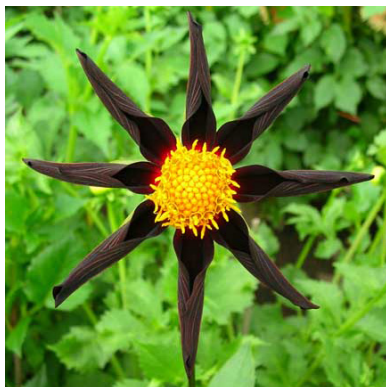
Collarette (CO), Micro Collarette (MCO)



Baron Wendy

Single row of flat or slightly cupped ray florets (petals) arranged on a flat plane, with petaloids forming a “collar” around the open center. Eight petals are most desirable. Standard flower is over 2 inches in diameter. Micro or Mignon is up to 2 inches.

Orchid (O), Micro Orchid (MO)



Verrone's Obsidian

Single row of uniform, evenly spaced ray florets (petals) arranged in a flat plane around an open-center. Petals are rolled in at the tips. Eight petals are most desirable. Standard flower is over 2 inches in diameter. Micro or Mignon is up to 2 inches.

Orchette (OT), Micro Orchette (MOT)



Baron Nikki

Much like the Orchid, but with a “collar” of petaloids as in the Collarette. Standard flower is over 2 inches in diameter. Micro or Mignon is up to 2 inches.

Single (S), Mignon Single (MS)



Carl

Single row of flat or slightly cupped ray florets (petals) arranged in a flat plane. Petals overlap uniformly, with no gaps. Eight petals are most desirable. Round tips are preferred on a Single. A Mignon Single will have round tips. Standard flower is over 2 inches in diameter. Micro or Mignon is up to 2 inches.

Our courses are written by dahlia enthusiasts, not necessarily scientists or horticulturalists. These enthusiasts are pleased to share their experience and best practices with you. Please keep in mind that there are a variety of opinions in the dahlia community and that different solutions and procedures work in different circumstances and locales. We urge you to participate in a [local society](#) where you will meet great growers with knowledge of growing dahlias in your area...and you'll have fun!

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