

Dahlia Propagation from Cuttings, Presented to members at the February 3, 2026 Meeting

Cuttings:

An efficient way to produce multiple, vigorous plants from one tuber, which will still produce a new tuber for storage.

Steps:

1. Pot up dormant tubers in early spring (February-March) in compost, keeping the crowns exposed.



2. When the new shoots are about 3-4 inches you can cut them off below a leaf joint with a sharp clean knife.



3. Prepare small pots or planting cells with rooting medium. Moist, gritty or vermiculite-based potting mix works well.

4. Remove lower leaves to reduce moisture loss and dip in rooting hormone.



5. Poke a hole in the rooting medium with a pencil, wooden chopstick or small stick. Gently place the cut end of your shoot into this hole, keeping as much rooting compound on the end as possible. Insert the shoot deeply enough that the slight bumps where the leaves were attached are below the soil surface. Putting them near the edge of the pot can increase success.



6. Write the name of the dahlia variety you took the cutting from on a tag and insert the tag.



7. Water the cuttings and place in a warm, bright area, ideally covering with plastic or using a propagator to maintain humidity.



8. Water lightly and regularly.

9. Roots should form in 3-4 weeks.

10. As the cuttings grow, pot on into bigger pots and before planting out, stand them outside for a few weeks in the fresh air, bringing them back in again in the evening.



11. When all danger of frost is over plant them where you want them to be.

Tips for Success:

- ✓ **Temperature & Light:** Cuttings need warmth (a heat mat helps) and bright, indirect light.
- ✓ **Rooting Hormone:** While not strictly necessary, dipping the base of cuttings in rooting hormone can enhance success rates.
- ✓ **Hardening Off:** Before planting outdoors, and after all danger of frost has passed, acclimate new plants to outdoor conditions.