

WAKING YOUR TUBERS & PREPARING FOR SPRING

Cathrine Featherby



Waking Your Tuber from Storage

- Needs between 18 – 21 degrees of consistent warmth
- Bring into house at the beginning to mid February if waking up for cuttings, tuber sale or potting up
- Can be eyed up and put back into a 4-10 degree area until ready to sell or plant
- Visible eye? Decision time.....

EYES ON YOUR TUBERS.....

- **CREATE** A GARDEN PLAN SO YOU KNOW HOW MANY OF EACH CULTIVAR YOU WANT TO KEEP. ALWAYS KEEP SOME EXTRA.
- **ORGANIZE** THE EYED UP TUBER IN IT'S OWN BAG WITH VERMICULITE OR WOOD CHIPS FOR SELLING. TUBER EYE IS FACING THE FRONT AND TO THE LEFT.
- **PUT** YOUR EYED UP TUBERS AND THOSE BAGGED BACK INTO COLD STORAGE IF YOU WANT TO PLANT DIRECTLY INTO THE GARDEN AT A LATER DATE, OR SELL AT THE TUBER SALE.
- **PREPARE** TUBERS FOR CUTTINGS.
- **GET** POTTING

NO EYES ON YOUR TUBERS.....

- **DEVELOP** EYES AT DIFFERENT TIMES
- **KEEP TUBERS** IN WARMTH OF 18-21 DEGREES UNTIL YOU SEE AN EYE
- **LEAVE** FOR AS LONG AS YOU WISH (SOME ARE SLOW TO START)

TUBER STORAGE



HERE, TUBERS ARE STORED IN STYROFOAM BOXES, IN OUR UNHEATED, ATTACHED GARAGE. THE TEMPERATURE IS BETWEEN 40 - 50 F.
4.5 - 10 C.

INSIDE THE STYROFOAM BOXES



TUBERS ARE
STORED IN
PLASTIC BAGS
CONTAINING A
COMBINATION
OF WOOD
CHIPS AND
VERMICULITE



IN EARLY SPRING
THE TUBERS ARE
CHECKED, LIGHTLY
BRUSHING THE TOP
SO FUTURE EYES
ARE VISIBLE.
REMOVE ANY BAD
ONES, AND TURN
THEM, SO THE EYES
WILL BE AT THE TOP
OF THE BAG FACING
OUT.

SOME TUBERS ARE KEPT IN THEIR TUBER CLUMPS THROUGH THE WINTER

- TUBER CLUMPS ARE OFTEN STORED IN PLASTIC BINS WITH VERMICULITE OR A MIXTURE OF VERMICULITE AND WOOD CHIPS.
- MY CLUMPS HAVE BEEN SET INTO THE BINS SO THE GROWTH WILL NOT GROW INTO ANOTHER CLUMP. TWO ROWS DOWN THE SIDE AND ONE IN THE MIDDLE.
- THE BINS ARE BROUGHT INTO THE HOUSE FROM THE GARAGE TO START WARMING UP IN EARLY FEBRUARY.







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Morioka would
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Ferries as big a threat
as tankers

Re: "Energy board endorses Trans
Mountain pipeline," Feb. 23.

The negative reaction to the recent
National Energy Board decision to
allow the Trans Mountain pipeline
expansion and with it one additional
tanker a day in B.C. coastal waters is
concerning for the health of the orca
population for the health of the orca
population, you would expect them to
be also incensed with the announce-
ment increasing its annual sailings by
100 percent. As has been noted
Minister of Fisheries
Jonathan Wilkerson
orcas of a f
rable. T

Robert Creese
Victoria

I fear the root of this plan (to pin
"colonization" of Fairfield as it is about
to replant the iconic cherry trees.
Maybe they will be the perfect fit for
another hundred years.

The w
a smok

Re: "Energy
Mountain L

The fossils
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FULL TUBER CLUMP WINTERED IN A PLASTIC BIN WITH VERMICULITE



HERE THE EYES HAVE SPROUTED MAKING IT MUCH EASIER TO SEE WHERE TO MAKE THE CUTS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL TUBERS.

TUBER CLUMP DIVIDED INTO THE INDIVIDUAL TUBERS



LIGHTLY BRUSH OR WASH YOUR CLUMP SO IT'S EASY TO SEE WHERE TO MAKE THE CUTS. IF YOU'RE CAREFUL YOU CAN END UP WITH LOTS OF TUBERS FROM ONE CLUMP. EACH OF THESE HAS A VISIBLE EYE OR GROWTH.

PROTECT OPEN CUTS

CINNAMON
or
SULPHUR

BOTH WORK
WELL AS A
FUNGISIDE TO
PROTECT THE
OPEN CUTS ON
YOUR TUBERS.



ALWAYS STERILIZE YOUR IMPLEMENTS

- USE A SPRAY OF ISOPROPYL ALCOHOL, OR YOUR PREFERRED PRODUCT.
- MINE GOES IN A SMALL SQUIRT BOTTLE AND IS CARRIED WITH ME AT ALL TIMES.
- I USE IT WHILE WORKING IN THE GREENHOUSE, GARDEN, AND CUTTING TUBERS.
- I STERILIZE AFTER EACH CLUMP, WHEN CLEANING UP TUBERS, PLANT MAINTENANCE, AND WHEN GOING FROM PLANT TO PLANT CUTTING FLOWERS.

WATCH FOR ODD THINGS



I CAME ACROSS THIS BUNDLE OF BABY WIRE WORMS WHEN CUTTING A WINTERED TUBER CLUMP. HAD I MISSED THIS, WHICH WAS CAMOFLAGED IN THE BOTTOM OF THE STEM, THESE 9 TINY WIRE WORMS WOULD HAVE ENDED UP IN THE COMPOST. ASSUMING THE CLICK BEATLE LAYED HER EGGS AT THE BASE OF THE STEM

CLICK BEETLE – MANY SPECIES



WIREWORM AND PUPA



HOW TO REMOVE WIRE WORMS

USE BENEFICIAL NEMATODES
(*Steinernema feltiae*) WHICH KILL
MOST PESTS

CULTIVATE THE TOP 6 TO 8 INCHES

PRE-PLANT POTATO PIECES AND MARK
LOCATIONS. REMOVE AND REPLACE AS
THEY BECOME INFESTED.

I WOULD USE THE NEMATODES (FROM
AMAZON) OR POTATO SINCE I'M
TRYING TO GARDEN WITHOUT TILLING.

Dahlia Gall Basics

Cathrine has additional information on our website at:

<https://victoriadahliasociety.org/education/>

Dahlia Gall is a disease you do not want to have in your garden. Most gall is caused by insects which produce a protective gall around their nesting areas.

Dahlia Gall is caused by a BACTERIA which is easily passed to other plants and difficult to eradicate!

Leafy Gall



LEAFY GALL

Leafy Gall affects the growth of plant stems and leaves. It causes many misshaped eyes and shoots, all bunched together.

Dahlia Gall can take up to 2 years to show symptoms on your dahlia.

Crown Gall



CROWN GALL

Crown Gall affects the tubers and root system of the dahlia plant. It is also a bacteria and just as dangerous as Leafy Gall.

It produces plant abnormalities, but different than those of Leafy Gall. These appear as tumor growths on the tuber area.

Controlling Gall

- Avoid purchasing dahlia tubers from mass market sellers.
- Check new stock carefully and grow it in pots for the first 2 years.
- Keep it separate from your regular dahlia bed.
- Gall bacteria can stay in the ground for 2+ years.

Controlling Gall

- For both Leafy and Crown Gall the whole plant will be infected. Destroy the whole plant and tuber clump.
- Do not put it in the compost but use the garbage, and not the green garbage.

WASH AND DISINFECT YOUR TOOLS.

Source: [Oregon State University Is it Crown Gall or Leafy Gall?](#) Melodie L. Putnam and Marilyn Miller.

****POTTING UP YOUR TUBERS**

- 6 weeks before planting out – approximately middle of March
- Ground temperature should be about 15-16 degrees consistently
- Use 1 – 3 gallon pots

POTTING UP YOUR TUBERS



HOW DEEP INTO THE POT YOU PLACE YOUR EYED UP TUBER DEPENDS ON THE AMOUNT OF GROWTH.

THE BOTTOM LEAVES HAVE BEEN REMOVED.

POTTED TUBER WITH GROWTH ABOVE THE SOIL



SOIL IS A MIXTURE
OF COMPOST AND
SUNSHINE MIX
NUMBER 4.
NO ADDITIONAL
FERTILIZER IS ADDED
AT THIS TIME.
THE PLANT IS
CURRENTLY
GROWING FROM
THE TUBER
NUTRIENTS SO
DON'T OVER WATER

****Potting up your tubers with eye only**

- 1-3 gallon pot
- No fertilizer added
- Tuber 4-6 inches deep
- Put in warm location 18-21 degrees
- No water for 1 week
- See sprouts in 2-3 weeks
- Under grow lights (15 hrs/day)
- Plant when ground temperature is 15-16 degrees

[Source: Swan Island Dahlia's YouTube, "Waking up your Dahlias"](#)

It's time to think about your soil



Dahlias prefer soil that:

Has a PH between 6.2 and 6.5 (bit acidic)

Is aerated with uniform texture

Contains a good amount of humus

Holds sufficient moisture for vigorous growth

Has balanced nutrients of nitrogen, phosphate, potassium, plus micro nutrients

MAYBE GET YOUR SOIL TESTED

HEALTHY SOIL CREATES HEALTHY PLANTS

Additional resource – [Cathrine Featherby “Soil”](#)

SOIL IS MADE UP OF MINERALS – GROUND UP ROCK TO WHICH OTHER MATERIAL IS ADDED.

HEALTHY SOIL WILL DEVELOP A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR PLANTS.

ONE TBSP. OF LIVING SOIL MAY CONTAIN A BILLION ASSORTED MICROBES, A MILE OR MORE OF FUNGAL FILAMENTS, PLUS MICROFAUNA ORGANISMS.

IN SHORT, WE HAVE A SYMBIOTIC ECOSYSTEM PROVIDING MESSAGES, FOOD, ELEMENTS AND WATER TO PLANTS.

BOTH PESTICIDES AND TILLING CAUSE COLLATERAL DAMAGE AND THROW OFF THE PLANT SOIL BALANCE

LOOK AT PLANTING SOME DIFFERENT CULTIVARS



TARATAHI RUBY
WATER LILY



BLOOMQUIST BARBARA
FORMAL DECORATIVE



ELVIRA
PEONY



EMBRACE
SEMI CACTUS



COLWOOD EVE
LACINIATE



HOLLYHILLBLACK BEAUTY
INFORMAL DECORATIVE

Dahlias for cut flowers

A strong long stem
Complimentary colours
Fit your colour scheme
Can be any size



CULTIVAR NAMES FOR THE BLOOMS ON THE PREVIOUS SCREEN BY ROW LEFT TO RIGHT

ROW 1. ANGELA DODI - LACINIATE, MEDIUM SIZE (B), LIGHT BLEND, HT 4'

ROW 2. L'ANCRESS – BALL, WHITE, HT 4.5-5'

HOLLYHILL BLACK BEAUTY - INFORMAL DECORATIVE, SMALL SIZE(BB), DARK RED, HT 5'

KARAS 150 – CACTUS, SMALL SIZE (BB), WHITE, HT 4'

CHIMICUM TROY – MINIATURE BALL, PURPLE, HT 5'

ROW 3. BADGER TWINKLE – SEMI CACTUS, MINIATURE SIZE (M), DARK BLEND, HT 5'

AC ABBY – CACTUS, MEDIUM SIZE (M), FLAME, HT 5'

MARY'S JOMANDA – BALL, DARK PINK, HT 5'

PARKLAND RAVE – INCURVED CACTUS, SMALL SIZE (BB), LAVENDER, HT 4-4.5'

CULTIVAR NAMES FOR BLOOMS ON THE NEXT PAGE BY ROW LEFT TO RIGHT

ROW 1. BOWL OF WATERLILIES – CAMEO – WATERLILY, YELLOW, HT 4.5-5'

THREE ORANGE WATERLILIES – PAM HOWDEN, WATERLILY, ORANGE, HT 4.5-5'

ROW 2. A MIXED BOUQUET

TWO DIFFERENT BLOOMS TOGETHER

BEN HUSTON – INFORMAL DECORATIVE, GIANT (AA), 5+'

NICK SR – INFORMAL DECORATIVE, GIANT(AA), 3.5'

More Dahlias for cut flowers



ANOTHER OPTION FOR ADDING DIFFERENT CULTIVARS IS TO LOOK AT LOCAL HYBRIDIZERS.

Paul Mckittrick - **CHI** DAHLIAS

Connie Young-Davis - **CONNIE** DAHLIAS

Barry and Mary Willoughby - **KEATING** DAHLIAS

Ralph Hellens - **R.** DAHLIAS

Cathrine Featherby – **CATS** DAHLIAS

Norman and Gwen Redcliffe – **REDCLIFFE** DAHLIAS

These are current members of this society that have created dahlias that are in the classification book.

It's a great deal of work for those on the island to get the same recognition for their cultivars as those on the mainland and in the USA.

DAHLIAS IN A MIXED GARDEN BED







