

Summer Flowering Bulbs

growing begonia tubers

- 1 Start your tubers indoors in February or March in 10 – 15cm (4 – 6”) pots or peat pots* using starter mix or straight peat moss.
 - 2 Press tubers into the starter mix hollow side up leaving the top one-third of the tuber uncovered. Moisten the starter mix and place pots in a bright warm location, preferably in a south or west facing aspect.
 - 3 Keep moist but not overly wet. When shoots appear, increase watering.
 - 4 Plant out-of-doors when plants are well developed and temperatures are sufficiently warm (probably in late May) in soil enriched with peat moss, in partial shade.
 - 5 Feed regularly with a blossom boosting fertilizer such as 15 – 30 – 15 according to package directions, or use 14–14–14 slow release every two months or so.
- * peat pots can be planted directly into the ground (no disturbing tender, young roots).



storing begonia tubers

- 1 Before frost lift the tubers with a spading fork, shake off excess soil & allow to dry for about a week.
 - 2 Cut off old foliage & remove stems.
 - 3 Clear off any remaining soil from tubers & store them in slightly moistened peat moss** (or sawdust, sand, perlite or vermiculite) in boxes or trays with ventilation.
 - 4 Keep in a cool, dry, frost-free place (2 – 10°C / 35 – 50°F).
 - 5 Check peat moss occasionally to make sure it is not overly dry.
 - 6 If you like, dust the tubers before storing them with bulb dust to help prevent insect & disease problems.
 - 7 In late winter or very early spring take the tubers out of storage & pot them up indoors in order to have plants ready for summer display.
- **very dry peat moss may suck the moisture from the tubers.

growing dahlia tubers

- 1 Choose a sunny location with at least 6 hours of strong light per day.
- 2 Plant tubers starting in mid April but not much later than mid May.
- 3 Dig the hole 6” (15cm) deep & 1.5 feet (45 cm) wide.
- 4 Work a shovelful of peat moss, a handful of bone meal & 1/4 cup bulb food into the hole.
- 5 If planting tall varieties - 3 feet plus - drive a 5 foot stake into the back edge of the hole.
- 6 Gently place the tuber horizontally in the hole & cover with 3” of soil - no more!
- 7 Water thoroughly if no rain is expected.
- 8 As the shoots grow, gradually fill in the hole with soil.
- 9 Protect tender young shoots from slugs.
- 10 Once the shoots appear dahlias grow rapidly so they need a steady supply of moisture.
- 11 When the first flower buds form, add a second application of bulb food.
- 12 If planted properly this will be all the fertilizer they’ll need for the season.
- 13 Dahlias provide incredible summer & fall colour & make great cut flowers as well!

cutting dahlias

- 1 Pick open or nearly open blooms in early morning.
- 2 Put cut stems immediately into 2-3” of hot water (120°C)
- 3 Let stand in gradually cooling water for several hours or overnight.
- 4 Remove all the leaves from the portion of the stem that’s below the water line & you’re ready to place your dahlias in your favorite vase!



storing dahlia tubers

- 1 A week after frosts have blackened the foliage, cut stems to 6" (15 cm) above the ground.
 - 2 Dig around the plant 1 ft (30 cm) from the stem & carefully pry up the tuber clumps with a spading fork.
 - 3 Shake off loose soil & place clumps upside down to drain any water from the hollow stems.
 - 4 Clean off any soil left on clumps & allow them to dry off before storage.
 - 5 Store clumps intact in shallow boxes with ventilation holes to allow for air circulation.
 - 6 Put a layer of slightly moistened peat moss** (or sawdust, sand, perlite or vermiculite) on the bottom of the boxes then place your tuber clumps & cover with more peat moss up to an inch (2.5 cm) over tubers.
 - 7 Store boxes in a cool, dry, frost-free place (5 - 7°C / 40-45°F).
 - 8 During storage check tubers occasionally for disease & make sure they are not shrivelling.
 - 9 About 2-4 weeks before planting in spring remove tubers from storage & separate by cutting tubers from stem using a sharp knife. Leave 1" (2.5 cm) of stem attached to each tuber. Make sure the tuber has at least one 'eye' or bud.
 - 10 Place tubers in moist sand or peat moss to encourage the development of sprouts.
- **very dry peat moss may suck the moisture from the tubers.

growing peonies

- 1 Choose your location wisely - peonies live to a ripe old age & resent being disturbed after planting.
- 2 Peonies grow well in most soils but because of their long lives prepare the soil well to a depth of at least 1.5 feet (45 cm).
- 3 Add 2 shovels full of peat moss, a handful of bone meal & 1/4 cup bulb food to the hole.
- 4 Set the bulb so the eyes are no deeper than 2" (5 cm) - planting deeper may prevent blooming.
- 5 Fertilize again when flower buds form.
- 6 In fall, remove stems carefully just below soil surface after leaves turn brown.
- 7 Peonies need at least 6 hours of sun throughout the day.

callas in the garden

- 1 Select a sunny spot & dig a hole 12" deep & wide.
- 2 Add a shovelful of peat & 1/4 cup each of bonemeal & bulb food.
- 3 Backfill with soil & mix well.
- 4 Set bulb(s) 2" deep & 12" apart.
- 5 Water lightly until leaves appear then water freely.
- 6 Fertilize a second time when flowers appear.
- 7 After blooming, reduce then stop watering until new growth begins to encourage more blossoms.

white calla (aethiopica)

This calla is very tolerant of most soils & thrives on heavy watering or bog conditions. It is also a hardy variety that can be left in the ground over winter unlike the coloured ones which should be lifted before frost.

may we suggest...

callas in containers because they're compact, easy to grow, bloom throughout the summer & look great in pots on the deck or patio!

 **maple leaf
garden centres**

1343 lynn valley rd. north van. 604-985-1784
2558 haywood ave. west van. 604-922-2613

growing gladiolus

- 1 Gladiolus' enjoy rich, well-drained soil with ample water while growing & blooming.
- 2 Add bulb food to the soil when planting & place the bulbs at a depth of 4 - 6".
- 3 Fertilize again with bulb food when the flower spikes start to form.
- 4 If you want glads to bloom continually through the summer months plant a new batch of bulbs every 15 days from April to June.
- 5 They need at least 6 hours of sun throughout the day.



the basic needs of lilies

- 1 Deep, loose, well-drained soil.
- 2 Ample moisture year round because they never completely stop growing (not soggy though!).
- 3 Cool, shaded roots & full or part sun at the tops.

planting tips:

- 1 Dig a hole 8" deep by 8" wide.
- 2 Enrich the soil you've removed with 2 shovels full of peat moss, a handful of bonemeal & 1/3 cup bulb food.
- 3 Partially refill the hole until you can set the bulb at a depth that is 3 times the width of the bulb.
- 4 Fill the hole with the remaining soil & water thoroughly.
- 5 When flower buds form, side dress with more bulb food.
- 6 After blooming, let the leaves & stems ripen (turn yellow) before cutting back.