



DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA NEWSLETTER

PARKLAND RAVE BB-IC-L
FLOWER OF THE YEAR

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 3

JUNE/JULY 2013

WWW.DAHLIASOCIETYOFGEORGIA.COM

A RAINY SUMMER? ...OUR DAHLIAS LOVE THE RAIN

Yes...sometimes they rot when we get too much rain but they grow so much better when they have adequate rain during the growing season, so be happy. I have said for years that one of my best dahlia seasons was when we had rain almost the whole month of July one year and this past start of the 2013 season has been just

like it for the most part. We can all tell what the benefits of real rain bring to our dahlia gardens: better growth, earlier blooms, lots of blooms, reduction of yellowing leaves as the temperatures are lower and a general feeling of well being to our soul when we know our dahlias and other flowers are doing well. Sometimes though the rain can bring us some problems we don't normally have to contend with during the growing season. If you go out to your garden and see some weird top growth, dark green miniaturized growth, black leaves, malformed blooms or any other growth that doesn't look correct, then chances are you have a fungus attacking your plant (s). You need to spray a fungicide on them as quickly as possible. Any general fungicide that you can find at a hardware store or a big box store will work. I would suggest an Ortho product. Cut off as much of the weird growth as possible back to a leaf axial so new growth can occur. Hopefully one spraying will take care of the problem, but if it persists spray weekly until correct growth returns.

I would like to mention two other issues concerning incorrect growth. The first is herbicide damage from some addition to your soil or Broad Mites which can come from some plant brought in to your garden. Herbicide damage may/may not be correctable depending on the herbicide. Most will dissipate in time but some can last for years. So please be careful when you get soil additions from unknown sources. Broad mites are less prevalent but if you have them it will show up at bloom time and will look like herbicide damage and everyone will tell it is herbicide damage. Spray with the same products you would use for the two spotted spider mite, Organicide or Avid, which are the best to use.



**GLORIOSA B-FD-V
YL/RD**

A VERY BEAUTIFUL BLOOM IN YOUR SUMMER/FALL DAHLIA GARDEN. IT GROWS VERY WELL IN OUR GEORGIA HEAT. IT WAS DEVELOPED IN 2003 BY LES CONNELL OF DAHLIAS BY LES & VIV IN TACOMA, WA

DURING THE SHOW SEASON IN 2012 IT WON A TOTAL OF 115 RIBBONS/MEDALS AND THE WINS WERE PRETTY EVENLY DISTRIBUTED ACROSS NORTH AMERICA.. I RECOMMEND IT FOR YOUR GARDEN.

CALENDAR

JUNE MEETING

JUNE 17, 7:30 PM

ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

JULY

ANNUAL PICNIC

JULY 27

HOME OF JOHN

&

REGINA KREINER

PEACHTREE CORNERS, GA

AUGUST MEETING

AUGUST 19

ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

2013 ADS NATIONAL SHOW

AUG 30-SEPT 1

GRAND RAPIDS, MI

<http://www.midwestdahliaconference.org/WMDS/2013NationalShow/2013NationalShowHomepage.html>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

GARY & LINDA MINOR
ROME, GA/TULSA, OK

WE ARE SO GLAD YOU HAVE JOINED THE DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR ACTIVITIES.

APRIL & MAY TUBER SALES

Thanks to everyone who brought tubers and purchased tubers at this year's sales. We netted around \$1,400 for these two fund raisers. We hope your tubers grow well for you.

Next year we need members to bring more tubers for the April sale as we really did not have enough this year. We may need to discontinue the April sale if we don't have enough tubers to offer and find another venue to sell tubers in April.

PICNIC TIME

The annual picnic will be next month, July 27, at the home of John & Regina Kreiner in Peachtree Corners. The address is 5387 Amhurst Drive, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092 Tele # 770-447-1405. It will start at 3 PM and last till everyone is tired of talking about dahlias.



JUNE MEETING MONDAY JUNE 17, 7:30 PM GARDEN CLASSROOM ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

The June meeting will feature the GUEST SPEAKER, Jay West, who was scheduled for our March meeting which was canceled at the last minute due to heavy storms. Jay is a staff member of the Atlanta Botanical Garden. He is an Auburn graduate in landscape horticulture and has been a member of the staff of ABG for the past two years. His topic will be ORGANIC GARDENING. Brenda Busby will provide refreshments.



This dahlia is named Peachtree Erica, BB-FD-LB PK/YL, after our granddaughter Erica. It is a 6th year seedling and the reason I bring that to your attention is that the ADS requires all new introductions to be at least four years old before being released for sale to the general public.

This dahlia took six years to settle down and decide what it wanted to be concerning its color mostly. It has become a lovely pink with yellow base BB. All you ladies that love pink get ready for next year when it will be released

DAHLIA QUESTIONS

Q: HOW CAN I KEEP THE DEER AND RABBITS FROM EATING MY DAHLIAS?

A: The product I have been most successful with in keeping them away from my yard has been Liquid Fence. You need to spray it about once a week. It is all natural and will not hurt your plants. It is available at most Ace Hardware stores or on line.

A second product I use that will keep the deer & chipmunks away is called Repellex. You can Google to find it. It is a hot pepper mixture but requires a week or so to get into the roots and the bulb. One tablet is good for one foot of the plant. I have had success using only two tablets per plant.

Q: WHY IS SO MUCH EMPHASIS PUT ON MULCHING DAHLIAS?

A: Dahlias don't care much for the heat, so it is important to mulch them. The feeder roots can go out up to two feet around the plant and they are only about 1" below the surface of the soil, so it is important to keep them cool so they will keep growing.

Q: HOW DO I GET AA & A DAHLIAS UP TO THEIR LISTED SIZE RANGE?

A: First you must grow them only one or two up. That means you must limit the laterals on the plant to only one or two stalks that will have blooms. You must strip the plant of excess laterals as it grows. In our heat it is difficult to get 10" - 12" or even A sized blooms unless you grow them 1 or 2 up. In Northern growing areas or the mountains of North Carolina they can grow them 4 up usually and get them up to size. Most small growers are unwilling to have only one or two blooms per plant to get the dinner plate bloom. The second thing you must do is to pinch the side buds. See the question on pinching.

Q: MUST I TIE MY PLANTS UP? IT TAKES A LOT OF TIME.

A: Unless you want your blooms wandering all over the ground this answer is YES.

Q: DO I REALLY NEED TO PINCH THE SIDE BUDS ON MY DAHLIAS AS I LOVE LOTS OF BLOOMS?

A: This is the age old question of do I want lots of blooms or do I want larger flowers. You are in control of your plants, so whatever you desire should be the determining factor. I like lots of blooms, too, so here is the compromise I make with this issue. I pinch side buds of AA, A, B and some BB sized blooms. Miniatures. I don't usually pinch unless I want to show them, like Weston Spanish Dancer or Altari Caress. Others depend on whether I am trying to show them or not. Pinching makes the blooms and plant look much neater.

Q: I SEE SOME WHITE POWDER ON SOME OF MY DAHLIA LEAVES. IS THAT POWDERY MILDEW?

A: Yes, it probably is powdery mildew even though it is a little early for it with all of our hot temps. I usually start getting it on my plants the last week of July but have noticed it already on a few of them. You can't cure it on the leaves already affected so you must spray the rest of the plant with a fungicide that will prevent it from spreading. There are many products that will protect your plants from powdery mildew and many home remedies that you can find on the internet.

The product that many of us in the Society use is called Rubigan. When you spray it every two weeks you will never see powdery mildew again. Available from Griffin

Nurseries in Ball Ground, GA or Southern

AG in Hendersonville, NC. Expensive

Q: WHAT CAN I DO TO KEEP MY BLOOMS FROM DROOPING AND SOMETIMES BREAKING?

A: We all need to apply a stem stiffener to our plants when blooms start to appear. The one we have been using for the past number of years is called potassium nitrate. You apply it every two weeks during the blooming season. I have a bag of it in a slow release form and anyone that wants some can have some for free.

Q: HOW DO I GET LOTS OF BLOOMS ON MY PLANTS?

A: Use a product called Mor-Bloom 0-0-10. It is from Alaska Products and has a fish base. Another product is called Sea Grow Bloom 4-26-26 It is available in one of the big box stores but I don't recall which one. This is the first season I have seen it locally available. The reason for recommending these products is that they have a low nitrogen content which you need as too much nitrogen late in the season is not good for dahlias.

Q: I HAVE BEEN SEEING HOLES IN AND EDGES OF THE LEAVES EATEN ON MY PLANTS?

A: Since we have had a great deal of rain in the past few weeks the holes are probably from snails that have gotten on your plant or in the pot if you are growing your dahlias in pots. If you have edges of the leaves eaten then you may have earwigs. Earwigs are the more devastating pest to your garden as they multiply very fast and will continue all season long whereas snails will retreat in the heat and won't remain a problem unless the rains continue. Look for snails in the top layer of your soil around the plant. Earwigs are nocturnal in their activity so they hide out during the day under pots and other items that retain a cool and dark environment. A great product for combating both is called Sluggo Plus and is available at Pike's.



EARWIG

Q: WHAT ARE SOME OTHER PESTS THAT LOVE DAHLIAS?

A: One of the worst is the two spotted spider mite. It may take a few years for them to show up if you have just started growing dahlias but they will come for the feast eventually. The leaves will turn brown from the bottom of the plant and die. If you look carefully you will see little red or white spider mites weaving their webs. Use a magnifying glass or a white piece of paper and shake the plant holding the paper under a branch or leaf. Avid, Expensive, Organicide, Low cost. Next is cucumber beetles and potato beetles, Leaf hoppers, Japanese beetles, (don't use traps) Mexican bean beetles, leaf borers, and grasshoppers. All of these can be controlled with an general insecticide. Inch worms or any other of worm can be controlled with BT.

Look at one our past newsletters, **July/August 2009 in our archives where the article by Brian Killingsworth** has lots of additional information and pictures of many of these pests.

GITTS FAMILY MEMBER DIES IN CAR CRASH

The Gitts family are the owners of Swan Island Dahlias in Canby, OR. Most of us have purchased tubers from Swan Island Dahlias. A 57-year-old Canby woman died Monday from injuries she [sustained in a car wreck](#) Saturday in the Woodburn area, Oregon State Police said this morning. Deborah Gitts was a passenger in a car driven by Teddy S. Gitts, 59. The Gitts' were traveling southbound on South Meridian Road and was struck on the driver's side by a pickup truck driven by Lennis E. Robinson, 56, of Molalla, police said. The Gitts were traveling through the Oregon 211 intersection when they were struck by Robinson, who was on Oregon 211. The intersection is marked with a stop sign for traffic on South Meridian Road.

Teddy Gitts remains in critical condition this morning, according to police. Robinson's car also struck a pickup truck driven by John L. Gubel, 62, of Keizer. Robinson and Gubel were not hurt. From The Oregonian

