

**DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA
MAY NEWSLETTER & MEETING NOTICE**



PENNSGIFT AA-ID-L

**A WONDERFUL GIANT DAHLIA THAT GROWS WELL IN
OUR HEAT AND ONLY GROWS 3 1/2 FEET TALL**

**All gardeners know that in some way they work out their
problems in the garden.**

**There is no mystery to it. They are simply following Nature's
laws. Planting a garden is an act of optimism.**

Marilyn Barrett, Creating Eden

MAY MEETING: OUR SECOND TUBER SALE

**MONDAY EVENING, MAY 16, 7:30 PM ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN, GEORGIA PA-
CIFIC ROOM ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE ORCHID CENTER.**

**MEMBERS PLEASE BRING YOUR TUBERS SO WE MAKE SURE WE HAVE LOTS OF TU-
BERS FOR THE SALE.. BE SURE THEY HAVE A VISIBLE EYE OR IF THE EYE HAS BEEN
KNOCKED OFF CIRCLE THE LOCATION OF THE EYE. PLEASE WRITE THE NAME OF THE
TUBER ON THE TUBER OR ATTACH A NAME TAG. TRY TO BE AS ACCURATE AS POSSI-
BLE AS TO THE NAME OF THE TUBER.**

STONE MOUNTAIN DISPLAY GARDEN: This past Saturday morning a number of us gathered to plant the garden for this growing season. We had a good time getting it tilled, layed out, writing the names of the tubers and planting the tubers. We were finished by 10:30 AM.

Thanks so much to Sara Schindel, Ann Critz, Francine Dykes, Heather Varsalona, Frank McComb, Dave Felton and Gene Hutchison for your hard work.



L-R Frank McComb, Sara Schindel, Francine Dykes, John Kreiner and Ann Critz.

L-R Frank McComb, Dave Felton and Francine Dykes.

The Display Garden is a labor of love that shows to the public visiting Stone Mountain the beauty of Dahlias in all of their glory. If any member would like to help maintain the garden this summer please let me know.

Pics by Heather Varsalona



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 16th Tuber Sale at the ABG

June 16th Monthly Meeting ABG

July is our summer picnic, more info on the date and place to be announced

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MAY IN THE DAHLIA GARDEN

This is one of the busiest months in your garden when growing dahlias and any other flowers or vegetables. Planting is the main item on your agenda so most of you have already started this task. If you are planting new dahlias from the tuber sales or some you have purchased, make sure each tuber has an eye or had an eye that may have been knocked off. You can usually see where it was. While some tubers will eye out after planting, it is not always a sure thing so see that eye before you plant so you won't be disappointed.

Soil amendments are so important so make sure to lighten the soil so the roots will grow easily. You can add peat or other material that will work. Dahlias love organic amendments like compost, mushroom compost and/or horse manure. Mushroom compost is mostly spent horse manure that still has enough energy to work in the garden. You can purchase mushroom compost at any big box store, Ace Hardware stores and most garden centers. Even if you left your dahlias in the ground over winter just put some mushroom compost around the base of the plant and water it in and you will get the same results.

Dahlias will take crowding so you can plant them 12" - 18" apart if you are short on space. I recommend 24" to 36" apart, especially if you are a new grower or don't have much experience growing dahlias. This will help in managing them. If you leave your tubers in the ground over winter you will have a number of stalks coming out of the ground by now. Each stalk develops it's own set of tubers which require feeding and can result in a lesser quality of flowers. I recommend you cut all but three stalks off at ground level unless you want a lot of smaller flowers. By reducing the number of stalks the size and quality should be better.

After planting comes staking and tying the plants up as they grow. Very important if you want good looking, erect plants that will produce quality blooms. Make sure you pinch out the growing stalk when the plant is about 12" high so the laterals will grow. This will keep the plant somewhat shorter too. I know some people don't like to pinch dahlias but this is one pinch needs to be done for the beauty of the plant and more blooms for you.

If the lack of rain persists then you need to water your dahlias on a weekly basis. Be careful not to over-water while the plants are small or haven't formed roots yet. Be ready with some extra tubers to replace any that rot or won't grow. You can start them in pots to give them a head start and then transplant them as needed. It is best to plant growing plants on a cloudy day or late in the afternoon to reduce the shock on the plant. Make sure you water plants in after transplanting.

CHECK OUT THE GROWING GUIDE ON OUR WEBSITE