

DAHLIA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER & MEETING NOTICE



**PICTURE OF THE MONTH FOR JULY, 2018 IN THE GARDEN OF ACCENT
DAHLIAS IN NORTHERN WASHINGTON**

AUGUST MEETING The August meeting will be held on Monday, August 20, 7:30 PM, in the Turner Theater in the entrance building of the Atlanta Botanical Garden. The program will be centered on getting ready for the annual show next month plus caring for your dahlias for the rest of the season. You will learn how to transport your show blooms to the show, what supplies to bring to stage your dahlias and how to stage your dahlias for the show.

We need members to bring your blooms to the show so we will have a good representation in the show. New members and members that have never shown before please bring some blooms to show. If you have never shown before you have three years as a novice grower and only compete against other novice growers. After that you have two years as an amateur grower competing against only other amateur growers.

ANNUAL PICNIC Our annual picnic was held at the home of Francine and Richard Dykes on July 28th. We had a great time with a good turnout and great food. Our sincere thanks to Francine and Richard for hosting the picnic and to those members that came and brought all of that wonderful food.

SUMMER WILT The following article was taken from the San Francisco Gate Magazine. The information about JMS Stylet Oil was added to the article. **JMS Stylet oil will cure the powdery mildew on the leaves thus allowing them to stay on the plant.**

Wilting Dahlias



Fungal Disease

A variety of fungal infections lead to wilting dahlias. Powdery mildew, caused by the pathogen *Erysiphe cichoracearum*, causes a white, powder-like growth on foliage. Leaves become distorted and wilted before falling to the ground. Fusarium wilt, caused by the pathogen *Fusarium oxysporum*, and verticillium wilt, caused by the pathogen *Verticillium dahliae*, cause similar symptoms. Foliage yellows and wilts, beginning at the bottom and working its way up, often appearing on one side of the plant. Both may lead to plant death.

Fungal Disease Control

To prevent powdery mildew disease, apply JMS Stylet oil or neem oil to the entire plant once every two weeks. For an existing disease, apply neem oil once a week. Unfortunately, no cures exist for fusarium or verticillium wilt disease. Remove and destroy the existing plant, and solarize soil or fumigate it to decrease the soil-borne fungi population. Fumigate with a product that contains a chloropicrin-methyl bromide combination.

LATE SUMMER DAHLIA CARE What actions should I take to prepare my blooms for sharing or showing?

1. Spray/drench your plants with a high phosphorus fertilizer which will promote blooming. We recommend using the Alaska product Mor-Bloom 0-10-10 and is a fish based product. Order on line.
2. My blooms won't keep their heads up. Put potassium nitrate around the base of the plant every two or three weeks until frost. This product will stiffen those stems and keep them stiff for the rest of the season. Use a small handful for each plant. Purchase at Amazon.

3. Cut off the use of almost all nitrogen after the first of September unless we don't get any rain. If you continue to use high nitrogen it will affect the quality and storage of your tubers during the winter.
4. If you want larger flowers on AA, A and B sizes or if you are grooming your flowers for the annual show make sure you disbud the two side buds on your laterals and the growth on the leaf junctions below the buds. You can also remove some of your growing laterals which will send more energy to the blooms.
5. Make sure your plants have enough water (this has not been a problem this season) as the fall is usually dryer than other times of the year.



CREEKSIDE DOC A-SC-LB AN ORIGINATION OF BRIAN KILLINGSWORTH, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE DS OF GA



CRAZY FOR CAROL M-IC-O THIS FLOWER WILL NOT KEEP IT'S CENTER CLOSED IN OUR HEAT.

GREAT PICTURE