



THE NEW DAHLIA SEASON... March has arrived so it is time to think about this year's Dahlia activities and start planning your garden and how many plants you want to grow and where they will go in your garden or yard. Some of us have been busy getting some of our tubers to eye out and starting to grow under lights so we can take some cuttings. Others have been busy trying to determine what new plants to grow this year and where to order the tubers from.

So many things to consider like what to add to my garden to my dahlias will grow better than they did last season. Make sure you get a soil test through your county agent if you haven't already done so. The correct PH is very important in growing your Dahlias. Also, make sure you add plenty of compost and/or mushroom compost to your soil. Do not use Black Kow as there are not enough nutrients in it to feed your Dahlias adequately

The second week in April is the best time to lift and divide your tubers if you want more plants for the coming season. Dig the plants, take one or more divisions of at least one tuber with an eye, put the plant back into the ground and water in if dry. Take the divisions inside and let air dry for at least 24 hours and then store in a plastic grocery bag until ready to plant in May.

Make sure you follow the instructions in the growing guide on our website for planting and managing your plants during the season.

MARCH MEETING... The March meeting will be held on Saturday, March 21 at 11:00 AM at the home of Ann Critz. **The address is 797 Springdale Rd., Atlanta, GA 404-308-4379.** The program will be a showing of a DVD of the new introductions for 2020 plus discussion of getting ready to plant Dahlias.

Ann has invited all attendees to stay after the meeting for a buffet luncheon and to enjoy viewing her wonderful display of Spring flowers. This will really be a treat.

Please RSVP your lunch attendance to Ann, 404-308-4379, or Francine, 404-377-4140 or John at jkreiner@bellsouth.net. **not later than Thursday noon, March, 19th.**

SOME NEW 2020 INTRODUCTIONS. YOU WILL SEE PICTURES OF SOME OF THESE AT THE MARCH MEETING...Most of these are sold out for 2020.

JS JERRY A -ID-Y



HOLLYHILL SPICE IT UP M-IC-Y/GOLD



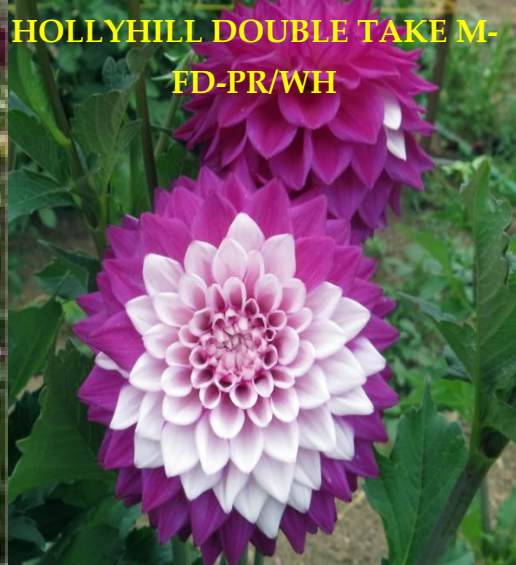
HOLLYHILL SEEING RED BB-SC-R



SWAN ISLAND SWEET GRACE BB-ID-PK/WH



HOLLYHILL DOUBLE TAKE M-FD-PR/WH



**BIRCH BAY DAHLIAS
IRISH CANDY MB-PK**



CLEARVIEW KEN BB-SC-OR



FERNCLIFF SUNSTRUCK BB-FD-Y



DESTINY'S EVAIL C-OR



MENTORING PROGRAM...We would like to restart our mentoring program again so if you are a new member/grower or an inexperienced grower and would like to have an experienced grower help you in any facet of your learning how to grow your Dahlias please contact me and a mentor will be assigned to offer assistance. Having a mentor will really help in your being successful in growing your dahlias. John Kreiner jkreiner@bellsouth.net 770-447-1405.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...We are so glad each one of our new members have joined the Dahlia Society and encourage all of you to attend the meetings we have during the year. Networking with more experienced growers and letting them answer growing questions brought by everyone will help motivate us all to grow our dahlias the best we can.

CATHERINE BARNES ANDERSON

DECATUR, GEORGIA

CHRISTINE (TINA) & ALBERT BRUNSMAN

LUTZ, FLORIDA

BRANDI MORRIS (SKY BLUE FLOWER FARM)

HAWKINSVILLE, GEORGIA

JESSICA PENNER

BOWERSVILLE, GEORGIA

DAHLIAS OF TODAY 2020... Kathleen Hadfield will bring copies of the new 'Dahlias of Today 2020' booklet published by the Puget Sound Dahlia Association. Come take a look. If you want a copy, the cost is \$10.00 (free for new members). Please make checks payable to Dahlia Society of Georgia or bring cash.



FIELD OF DAHLIAS GROWING ON THE WEST COAST

DIVIDING YOUR TUBERS...Usually we discuss this subject in the Fall when growers North of us have to dig their tubers and store them inside for the winter. Our mild winters allows us to keep our tubers in the ground during the cold months if we want to do so, and then take new divisions in April.

I would like to give credit to the DS of California for pointing out, in their March newsletter, the tuber cutting tutorial available in the Blog of the Summer Dreams Farm <https://summerdreamsfarm.com/dahlia-tuber-store/> . They are a commercial dahlia organization located in Michigan and are listed on the Dahlia Addict website. It is worth your time to take a look at this series of pictures.

CHRISTMAS PARTY...Thanks to Dave and Cheri Felton for hosting our Christmas party in December. Everyone had a wonderful time in your lovely home.



SPRING CHECK LIST... 1. Plant heat tolerant dahlias and make sure each tuber has a visible eye. 2. Since we have had so much rain make sure you plant during a dry spell after May 1st. Make sure the soil temperature is at least 70 degrees. 3. Pre-start some of your plants before putting them in the ground. 4. After planting don't water until the plants are 4" tall. 5. Be prepared to plant replacements due to losses from rot, chipmunks or other critters. A good estimate would be a 15% - 20% loss rate. 6. Make sure your hole has been dug out down to about 12" so the water will drain properly. Don't plant in an area that is soggy or water doesn't drain well. 7. Make sure you use lots of compost and/or mushroom compost as dahlias really respond to the nutrients in compost and horse manure. Mushroom compost is spent horse manure that still has enough nutrients for your dahlias.