

# Dahlia Winter Care

What You'll Need:	
Essential Items	Desirable Items
Shovel	Dusting Sulfur
Sharp Knife	
Dry sand, sawdust, or perlite	



In our cold winter climates, dahlias need to be dug and stored in order to survive. To lift the roots, cut stalks to 4" above ground level after the tops turn yellow or are frosted. Dig a 2 ft. clump with spading fork, shake off loose soil, and let the clump dry in sun for several hours. From that point, follow either of the following methods.

**Method 1:** Divide clumps immediately. Freshly dug roots are easy to cut, and eyes (growth buds) are easy to recognize at this time. To divide, cut the stalks with a sharp knife, leaving 1" of stalk attached to each section; make sure each division has an eye so it will produce a new plant. Dust cut surfaces with sulfur to prevent rot; bury in sand, sawdust, peat moss, or perlite and store over winter in a cool (40-45 degrees F), dark, dry place.

**Method 2:** Leave clumps intact. Cover them with dry sand, sawdust, peat moss, or perlite and store in a cool, dark, dry place as directed in method above. With this method, roots are less likely to shrivel.

About 2-4 weeks before planting in spring, separate intact clumps, cutting them apart as described under Method 1. Then place all roots- whether fall or spring divided- in moist sand to plump them up and encourage sprouting.

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