

HOW TO CARE FOR SHIPPED CUTTINGS

RECEIVING CUTTINGS IN THE MAIL WILL REQUIRE A LITTLE EXTRA CARE WHEN THEY ARRIVE. FOLLOW THE TIPS BELOW TO HELP YOUR NEWLY ACQUIRED CUTTING THRIVE.

SHIPPED CUTTINGS TYPICALLY ARRIVE IN A PLASTIC CLAMSHELL SHIPPING CONTAINER OR WRAPPED IN PAPER. THEY MAY BE IN A ROOTING CUBE, OR SHIPPED ROOTED IN A NURSERY POT.

DAY OF ARRIVAL:

UNWRAP

CAREFULLY UNWRAP THE CUTTINGS, PAYING ATTENTION NOT TO BREAK FOLIAGE OR ROOT DEVELOPMENT.

INDIRECT LIGHT

THE CUTTING HAS BEEN IN A DARK BOX FOR SEVERAL DAYS OF TRANSIT AND WILL NEED TO BE SLOWLY ADJUSTED BACK INTO THE LIGHT. DO NOT PLACE DIRECTLY UNDER GROW LIGHTS. RATHER, PUT CUTTING IN A WINDOW SILL WITH NO DIRECT LIGHT. KEEP CUTTINGS IN WINDOW SILL FOR 24-48 HOURS.

WATER

CUTTINGS WILL NEED WATER IF THE MEDIUM THEY ARE IN IS DRY. BE CAREFUL NOT TO OVER WATER.

DAY TWO/THREE:

POT INTO SOIL

IF YOUR CUTTING IS NOT ALREADY, POT UP THE ROOT PLUG INTO A 4" POT OF SOIL. WATER IN. IF ONLY A FEW WEEKS UNTIL LAST FROST DATE, YOUR CUTTING CAN STAY IN A 4" POT UNTIL PLANTING OUT IN THE GARDEN.

DIRECT LIGHT

AT THIS POINT YOUR CUTTINGS SHOULD BE READY TO MOVE BACK UNDER GROW LIGHTS UNTIL IT IS TIME TO PLANT OUT IN THE GARDEN (AFTER ALL RISK OF FROST HAS PASSED).

HUMIDITY

IF YOU ARE FINDING THAT THE LEAF EDGES ARE GETTING CRISPY, YOUR CUTTING MAY NEED TO GO UNDER A HUMIDITY DOME. ONLY KEEP CUTTING UNDER DOME FOR A FEW DAYS THEN ADJUST BACK OUT OF THE DOME.



CONTINUED CARE AND PLANTING IN THE GARDEN:

NUTRITION

UNLIKE A TUBER GROWN DAHLIA, DAHLIA CUTTINGS DO NOT HAVE STORED NUTRITION. YOU MAY NEED TO FEED YOUR CUTTINGS WHILE THEY ARE INDOORS. FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE CONTAINER, CONSIDER PROVIDING A FISH EMULSION OR KELP FERTILIZER TO HELP SUPPORT PLANT NUTRITION.

HARDEN OFF BEFORE GARDEN PLANTING

WHEN ALL RISK OF FROST HAS PASSED, IT IS TIME TO HARDEN OFF YOUR CUTTING. OVER THE COURSE OF SEVERAL DAYS, SLOWLY HAVE YOUR CUTTING IN MORE AND MORE DIRECT SUNLIGHT. STARTING WITH A SHADY SPOT, MOVING TO AN HOUR OF DIRECT SUNLIGHT, AND SO FORTH, BEING CAREFUL NOT TO BURN YOUR CUTTING. ONCE IT IS FULLY HARDENED OFF, YOUR CUTTING IS READY TO BE PLANTED IN THE GROUND.

HOW TO PLANT CUTTING

AT THIS TIME YOU WILL CHOOSE TO PLANT YOUR CUTTING IN THE GROUND DIRECTLY, OR KEEP IT IN ITS NURSERY POT TO GROW A "POT TUBER." POT TUBER REFERS TO A DAHLIA PLANT THAT IS GROWN THROUGHOUT THE SEASON IN A NURSERY POT THAT IS BURIED UNDER GROUND POT AND PLANT (SEE PICTURE BELOW). IF GROWN AS A POT TUBER, TUBER DEVELOPMENT WILL BE INHIBITED AND CREATE A TIGHT CLUMP OF TUBERS WITHIN THE NURSERY POT.



PLANTING YOUR CUTTING DEEP INTO THE SOIL, COVERING A COUPLE LEAF SETS, GIVES THE POTENTIAL TO GROW TUBERS AT EACH LEAF SET.

YOUR CUTTINGS WILL NEED TO BE WATERED IMMEDIATELY AND REGULARLY ONCE OUT IN THE GARDEN.

WILL CUTTINGS MAKE TUBERS?

THIS IS VARIETY DEPENDENT. YOU WILL FIND THAT SOME VARIETIES ARE BETTER AT MAKING TUBERS FROM CUTTINGS THAN OTHERS.

