

HOW TO TAKE DAHLIA CUTTINGS

A ROOTED CUTTING IS A CLONE OF THE MOTHER TUBER. THIS CUTTING WILL BLOOM AND CREATE TUBERS DURING THE GROWING SEASON. FOLLOW THIS GUIDE TO TAKE DAHLIA ROOTED CUTTINGS FROM A TUBER.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- WARM ENVIRONMENT ABOUT 70°F
- GROW LIGHTS
- SHELF
- GROWING MEDIUM
- SEED TRAY
- SEED TRAY HIGH DOME
- 4" PLANT POT
- GROWTH HORMONE - OPTIONAL
- SPRAY BOTTLE AND WATERING CAN
- SCALPEL
- BLEACH
- DAHLIA TUBER

INSTRUCTIONS

THERE ARE NO SPECIAL GROWING SPACES REQUIRED TO TAKE CUTTINGS. YOU ONLY NEED A WARM ENVIRONMENT WHERE YOU CAN SET UP A SHELF WITH GROW LIGHTS. GROW LIGHTS NEED TO BE CLOSE TO PLANT MATERIAL TO AVOID TALL WEAK PLANT GROWTH.

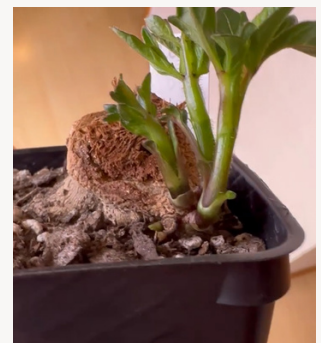
ABOUT 10-12 WEEKS PRIOR TO YOUR SEASONS LAST FROST DATE, POT UP AND LABEL A TUBER YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE CUTTINGS FROM. LIGHTLY WATER THE SOIL. CAREFUL NOT TO OVERWATER. ALL BUT THE CROWN OF THE TUBER WILL BE IN SOIL.

IT CAN TAKE UP TO 4 WEEKS FOR A TUBER TO WAKE UP AND ANOTHER TWO WEEKS FOR IT GROW LARGE ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO TAKE A CUTTING.

CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE LEVEL OF WATER IN YOUR CUTTING BED. TUBERS NEED MOISTURE BUT DO NOT OVERWATER OR YOU RISK ROTTING THE TUBER.

WHILE TUBERS ARE GROWING AND CUTTINGS ARE TRYING TO ROOT, LIGHTS ARE ON FOR 16 HOURS, OFF FOR 8 HOURS. UTILIZE AN AUTOMATED TIMER FOR THIS SCHEDULE.

ONCE THE PLANT GROWTH HAS THREE LEAF SETS IT IS READY TO BE PULLED FROM THE TUBER. EITHER CAREFULLY USE A SCALPEL TO CUT THE MATERIAL OR GENTLY ROCK THE MATERIAL BACK AND FORTH UNTIL IT FALLS OFF THE TUBER. THIS PLANT MATERIALS WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 2-3" TALL.



ONCE THE PLANT MATERIAL IS REMOVED FROM THE TUBER, REMOVE THE BOTTOM TWO LEAVES, CAREFUL TO LEAVE THE SMALL NODE INTACT ON THE STEM, THESE NODES WILL BECOME ROOTS.



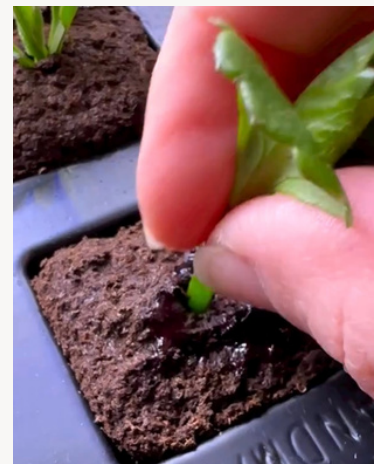
OPTIONAL: DIP THE BOTTOM OF THE CUTTING IN A ROOTING HORMONE. ROOTING HORMONE IS NOT NECESSARILY NEEDED FOR A CUTTING TO TAKE ROOT, HOWEVER, IT MAY HELP THE PROCESS AND POTENTIALLY MAKE THE CUTTING ROOT QUICKER THAN WITHOUT HORMONE.

THE CUTTING IS NOW READY TO GO INTO A GROWING MEDIUM (SOIL, VERMICULITE, SAND, ROOTING CUBE) IN A SEED TRAY.

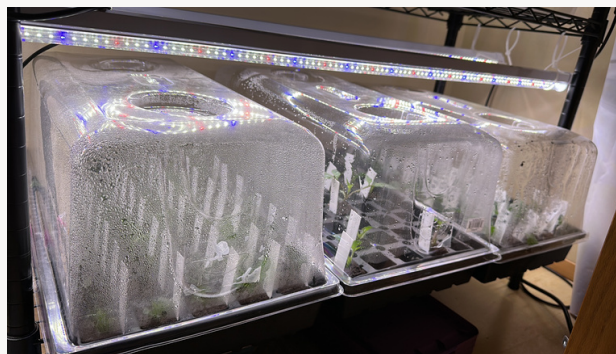
DO NOT FORGET TO LABEL YOUR CUTTING AS YOU MOVE IT FROM THE TUBER TO THE CELL TRAY.

MAKE SURE TO SANATIZE CUTTING UTENSILS USED BETWEEN PLANTS TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF SPREADING DISEASE.

KEEP GROWING MEDIUM IN CELL TRAY MOIST AT ALL TIMES.



PLACE SEED TRAY UNDER A TALL DOME TO HELP HOLD A HIGH HUMIDITY. KEEP CUTTINGS DIRECTLY UNDER THE GROW LIGHTS. IF YOUR PLANTS ARE TOO FAR FROM THE LIGHT THEY WILL REACH FOR THE LIGHT AND GROW WEAK STEMS.



CUTTINGS WILL TAKE ON AVERAGE 10-14 DAYS TO ROOT. THIS IS VARIABLE, THEY CAN TAKE MORE OR LESS TIME DEPENDING ON THE VARIETY AND GROWING CONDITIONS.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP YOUR CUTTINGS MOIST THOROUGHOUT THE ROOTING PROCESS. YOU WANT TO SEE A LITTLE CONDENSATION ON THE INSIDE OF THE DOME. MIST YOUR CUTTINGS DAILY. I DO NOT HAVE RESTING WATER ON THE BOTTOM SEED TRAY.



ONCE YOU SEE ROOTS COMING OUT OF THE ROOTING CUBE THE CUTTING IS READY TO BE POTTED UP INTO A 4" POT AND CONTINUE GROWING OUTSIDE OF YOUR HIGH DOME.

CUTTINGS WILL NEED TO BE ADJUSTED OUT OF THE HUMID GROWING DOME. SLOWLY TRANSITION OVER THE COURSE OF A FEW DAYS TO LESS AND LESS HUMIDITY TO HELP REDUCE TRANSPLANT SHOCK.

LIKewise, CUTTINGS WILL NEED TO BE HARDENED OFF BEFORE PLANTING OUTSIDE. OVER A FEW DAYS, SLOWLY INTRODUCE YOUR CUTTING TO DIRECT SUNLIGHT. BEST TO HAVE THEM IN INDIRECT LIGHT OR SHADE FOR THE FRIST COUPLE OF DAYS OUTSIDE. TRANSPLANT CUTTINGS DIRECTLY INTO THE SOIL OR PLANT THE WHOLE 4" POT UNDERGROUND FOR THE GROWING SEASON TO HAVE A POT TUBER. WHEN PLANTING, BURY AN EXTRA LEAF SET TO INCREASE TUBER DEVELOPMENT.

BECAUSE OF THEIR FOLIAGE, THEY WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY FREEZING TEMPERATURES. MAKE SURE TO PLANT OUT AFTER ALL RISK OF FROST HAS PAST.

THE TUBER WILL SEND NEW GROWTH AROUND WHERE YOU TOOK THE ORIGINAL CUTTING (THE PHOTO TO THE RIGHT SHOWS A TUBER THE DAY OF A CUTTING AND THE SAME TUBER TWO DAYS LATER). AT THIS POINT YOU CAN CONTINUE TO TAKE CUTTINGS FROM THE TUBER OR ALLOW IT TO GROW OUT FOR THE SEASON.



YOU CAN TAKE MANY CUTTINGS FROM ONE TUBER. IF YOU PLAN TO STILL PLANT THE TUBER, YOU MAY ONLY WANT TO TAKE 5-10 CUTTINGS BEFORE PLANTING.

YOU CAN USE THIS SAME PROCESS TO TAKE CUTTINGS FROM PLANT MATERIAL FROM OUT IN THE GARDEN OR FOR LEAF CUTTINGS.

A LEAF CUTTING (SEE PICTURE TO THE RIGHT) IS ANOTHER PROCESS FOR CLONING PLANT MATERIAL THAT ONLY USES ONE NODE RATHER THAN A SET OF NODES. WHEN TAKING A LEAF CUTTING YOU WILL SLICE THE STEM DOWN THE MIDDLE. THIS PLANT MATERIAL IS THEN DIPPED IN HORMONE AND TREATED THE SAME WAY AS OUTLINED ABOVE.



TAKING DAHLIA CUTTINGS IS AN EXCELLENT WAY TO EITHER INCREASE YOUR STOCK OF A VARIETY OR TO SHARE WITH OTHERS. THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO TAKE DAHLIA CUTTINGS, THE ABOVE PROCESS IS WHAT WORKS BEST FOR US. WE ARE CURRENTLY USING BASIC WIRE RACKS, 100 36" 18W GROW LIGHTS, CLONEX ROOTING HORMONE AND ROOT RIOT ROOTING CUBES.

