



DAHLIA 'POOH'
*Named as one of our
'Customers Favourites' in 2017*

Dahlia Information Booklet

2018



Ayllett Nurseries

The Dahlia Collection

Plants from the Dahlia Collection will be available in 11cm pots from late April to the middle of June. They will be found on the sale benches in our Seasonal Bedding greenhouses, alongside our Geraniums, Fuchsias and Hanging Basket plants. Please call us on 01727 822255 to check availability before you visit if there are particular varieties you are hoping to purchase.

**Our Autumn Festival
will take place
8th – 16th September 2018**

Autumn Festival Scarecrow Competition

Enter our Scarecrow Competition for your chance to WIN £100 of Aylett Nurseries Gift Vouchers!
For more information please pick up an Entry Form from our Reception Desk or visit-

www.aylettnurseries.co.uk/events/like-enter-scarecrow-competition/

As part of our celebrations for our 60 years as a Nursery and Garden Centre, in 2015 we created a special garden within our Dahlia Field. Called the Celebration Garden its aim was to demonstrate just how versatile and valuable Dahlias can be when planted in a garden.

It is not exaggeration to say that this garden has been a great success and has been enjoyed by many of our customers. It is open all year round, and although our traditional dahlia field planted with an A-Z of varieties from the catalogue is not planted until the first week of June, a walk around the celebration garden can be enjoyed at any time of year to see what is going on, although it reaches its peak of performance around the time of our annual festival in September.

This year we are opening the garden as part of the National Garden Scheme, hoping to raise money for the charities that the scheme supports. For more information visit ngs.org.uk

There is a wild flower border at the bottom of the field, complete with its own Insect Hotel. During the summer months, it is a hive of activity with various insects including bees and butterflies enjoying the nectar.

This is also perfect setting for a summer picnic with plenty of interest for the younger family members. This year we have created a new feature guaranteed to keep the children amused and even the more mature children! This is a living Willow dome approached by a tunnel.

Sit awhile on our special oak benches; let the world go by and enjoy the scents and visual magic of our borders.

The traditional A-Z format of the Dahlias is planted in early June; we always hope to see the first of the flowers during early August. It is always interesting to see how the plants develop, and during the growing season our dahlia experts are usually on hand in the field to answer any questions.

Dahlia plants will be available to purchase in 11cm pots from late April to the middle of June. Please call us on 01727 822255 to check availability before you visit if there are particular varieties you are hoping to purchase.

Classification

Dahlias are subdivided into groups depending on the shape and size of their flowers. The classification of Dahlias in this list is based on the National Dahlia Society (NDS) Classified Directory 2018 33rd edition. If you are exhibiting we suggest you check the National Dahlia Society website: www.dahlia-nds.co.uk. Some varieties are not classified (prefixed U) so we have indicated what we consider to be correct classification after trials on the Nursery. Dual classification has been withdrawn.

Shapes of Flowers



Waterlily Dahlias have fully double blooms characterised by broad ray florets that are slightly involute along their length giving saucer shaped flowers, that are very useful as a cut flower and for garden display. Increasingly popular for exhibition where the depth of the flower should be no more than half of the diameter.

Collerette Dahlias have blooms with a single outer ring of generally flat ray florets (petals) which must overlap, with a ring of small florets (the collar) on the centre forming a disc.



Decorative Dahlias have fully double blooms showing no disc. The ray florets (petals) are broad, scarcely curling inwards along their length, generally flat or slightly twisted and are usually bluntly rounded on their ends.

Ball Dahlias have fully double blooms, ball-shaped or slightly flattened. The ray florets (petals) are rounded or blunt at the tips with margins spirally arranged and involute for at least 75% of the length of the florets (petals)





Cactus Dahlias have fully double blooms. The ray florets (petals) are usually pointed, the majority being narrow and revolute for 65% or more of their length and either straight or incurving.

Semi-Cactus Dahlias have fully double blooms. The ray florets (petals) are usually pointed, and revolute for more than 25% and less than 65% of their length and broad at the base and either straight or incurving.



Pompon Dahlias have fully double spherical blooms with florets largely involute along their length.

Anemone-Flowered Dahlias have blooms with one or more outer rings of generally flattened ray florets surrounding a dense group of tubular florets.



Fimbriated Dahlias have blooms where ray florets (petals) should be evenly split or notched into two or more divisions, uniformly throughout the bloom to create a fringed overall effect. The petals may be flat, involute, revolute, straight, incurved or twisted.

Star Dahlias have blooms with a single outer ring of florets surrounding the disc. Ray florets are uniformly either involute or revolute.



Double Orchid Dahlias have fully double blooms showing no disc that have triangular centres. Ray florets are narrowly lanceolate and either involute or revolute.

Single Flowered Dahlias have blooms with an outer ring of florets, which may overlap, the centre forming a disc.



Paeony Dahlias have blooms that have multiple outer rings of ray florets surrounding a disc; ray florets are flat or slightly involute.

Dwarf Bedder after the flower classification means these varieties do not normally grow above 60cm (2ft) in height and therefore do not require staking. When planted in groups of three or more they make a brilliant splash of colour in a mixed border. Dwarf Dahlias are not normally disbudded. The flower shapes fall into the different classifications.



The Abbreviation AGM after the cultivar name indicates that the variety has been awarded an Award of Garden Merit by the Royal Horticultural Society. These awards are made to plants that have been submitted to trial at the RHS trial grounds around the United Kingdom. Plants that do not have this award may not have been submitted to the selection process and are therefore not eligible for the AGM but possibly have the same garden merits.

Size of Flowers

Certain classifications have been subdivided depending on the size of the flower - these are as follows:

Miniature Flowered

These cultivars have blooms usually not exceeding 100mm (4.ins) in diameter.

Small Flowered

These cultivars have blooms usually between 100mm (4ins) and 150mm (6ins).

Medium Flowered

These cultivars have blooms usually between 150mm (6ins) and 200mm (8ins).

Large Flowered

These cultivars have blooms usually between 200mm (8ins) and 250mm (10ins).

Giant Flowered

These cultivars have blooms usually over 250mm (10ins) in diameter.

Height

The heights given in the list are a guide only; the ultimate height will depend upon weather conditions and position in the garden.

U= denotes unclassified in current classified directory.

Dahlia List 2018

Alva's Doris AGM

U Small-flowered Cactus

Height – 120cm

Deepest blood red. Prize winning cultivar.

Alva's Supreme AGM

Giant-flowered Decorative

Height – 120cm

Delightful yellow flowers. Suitable for exhibition.

Arabian Night

Small Decorative

Height - 105cm

Deep red, very free flowering, an old garden variety.

Audacity

U Medium-flowered Decorative

Height - 120cm

Rosy pink, mauve and white blends.

Barbary Banker

U Miniature-flowered Decorative

Height- 120cm

Bright pink blooms, ideal cut flower.

Bishop of Llandaff AGM

Paeony flowered

Height – 90cm

Bright crimson blooms of 9cm (3ins) diameter over dark bronze foliage.

One of the oldest cultivars available and justifiably popular with our visitors.

Bishop of York

Single flowered

Height- 105cm

Single yellow flowers with dark foliage, free flowering. Lovely addition to the border.

Blue Bayou

Anemone

Height – 70cm

Lavender flower with deeper centre. Very free flowering. **This variety may be found in our Celebration Border**

Blueberry Hill

U Collerette

A Ken Stock Dahlia

Height – 105cm

White collar, cerise petals edged with white.

Blyton Lady in Red

Miniature-flowered Ball

Height – 105cm

Superb dark red blooms of perfect formation, suitable for exhibition, cutting or borders.

Blyton Softer Gleam

Small Ball

Height – 120cm

Lovely soft orange with paler base.

New to our list for 2018

Brian's Dream

Miniature Decorative

Height -120cm

Stylish globular blooms, white with lavender flush.

Café au Lait

Giant Decorative

Height – 120cm

Large flowers of creamy, peach shades.

Cameo

Waterlily

Height – 120cm

Beautifully formed cream flowers with yellow base.

Carol's Spanish Dancer

Miniature cactus

Height – 105cm

Rosy purple on white.

Very popular and eye-catching.

Carstone Firebox

Collerette

Height – 90cm

Blends of orange red and peach.

Very free flowering. **This variety may be found in our Celebration Border**

Chat Noir (Black Cat) AGM

U Medium-flowered Semi-Cactus

Height – 120cm

Very dark red blooms, free flowering.

An old variety from Mrs Aylett's garden.

Chimborazo

U Collerette

Height – 120cm

Dark maroon with a yellow collar and disc. **This variety may be found in our Celebration Border**

David Howard AGM

Miniature-flowered Decorative

Height - 120cm

Lovely burnt orange blooms on dark foliage. A very popular variety for the border.

Dawn Sky

U Small-flowered Decorative

Height – 120cm

Shell pink bloom, long stem. Ideal cut flower cultivar.

Dikara Superb

Miniature Decorative

Height – 120cm

Lovely sugar pink.

New to our list for 2018.

Fascination AGM

Paeony Dwarf Bedder

Height – 60cm

Peony flowered with dark bronze foliage which accentuates the light rosy purple of the flower.

This variety may be found in our Celebration Border

Fidalgo Supreme

U Large-flowered Decorative

Height – 120cm

Quality flowers – mid yellow, good for exhibition.

Finchcocks AGM

U Waterlily

Height – 120cm

Shades of salmon orange. Very free flowering.

Fire Mountain

Miniature flowered Decorative

Height – 105cm

Brightest of reds on nearly black foliage.

Voted to be the most popular with visitors to our Dahlia Field in 2013.

Formby Art

Small Decorative

Height - 120cm

Stylish globular white blooms with pink tips. Very strong growth.

Gipsy Boy

U Large-flowered Decorative

Height – 120cm

Velvet maroon red blooms. Beautiful form. Good stem.

Hadrian's Midnight

Single Flowered

Height – 1m

Deep red with dark centres on dark foliage. Raised by our friends at Halls of Heddon.

This variety may be found in our Celebration Border

Hamari Accord AGM

Large flowered Semi-Cactus

Height – 120cm

Broad petalled clear yellow blooms carried on stems well above foliage.

Hillcrest Firecrest

U Small Decorative

Height – 120cm.

Bright yellow with orange red tips.

Good border variety.

New to our list for 2018

Hillcrest Royal AGM

Medium Cactus

Height - 120cm

Richest purple flowers that stand out in the border.

Honka AGM

Star

Height – 90cm

Single yellow star-shaped flowers.

A Butterflies dream.

Irish Glow

Pompom

Height – 120cm

Lovely bright orange with good formation.

Jescot Julie

Double Orchid-flowered

Height – 90cm

Orchid flowered with blooms 5-10cm in diameter. Burnt orange with plum reverse; with fewer than normal petals, being of unusual formation.

Ideal for floral artists.

Named for Julie Aylett in 1974.

Kenora Macop

Medium Fimbriated Cactus

Height – 1.5m

Stunning velvety red flowers.

New to our list for 2018

Kenora Valentine

U Large Decorative Dahlia

Height – 125cm.

Bright orange red.

Return of an old favourite for 2018.

Kilburn Glow

Waterlily

Height -120cm

Magenta rose with lemon base.

One of our Customers Favourites in 2017.

L'Ancrese

Miniature Ball

Height – 105cm

White with a very faint lavender flush, if any at all.

L.A.T.E

Miniature Ball

Height – 1.5m

Orange and peach blends. Very free flowering.

Lemon Zing

Miniature Ball

Height –120cm

Pale lemon-yellow ball.

Mabel Ann

Giant-flowered Decorative

Height – 105cm

Huge blooms of apricot with pale yellow centre.

Madame Stappers

U Dwarf Paeony

Height 60cm

Bright scarlet flowers on dark foliage, very free flowering, an old variety.

This variety may be found in our Celebration Border

Magenta Magenta

U Miniature-flowered Decorative

A Ken Stock Dahlia

Height- 60cm

Rich magenta flowers. Very free flowering. Good for the front of the border. **This variety may be found in our Celebration Border**

Maika Girl

U Miniature-flowered Decorative

A Ken Stock Dahlia

Height - 75cm

A very pretty mixture of lilac and white. **This variety may be found in our Celebration Border**

Mayan Pearl AGM

U Double Orchid

A Ken Stock Dahlia

Height – 90cm

Silvery pink flowers. Very free flowering. A lovely Dahlia for the border.

Moonfire AGM

Single Dwarf Bedder

Height – 60cm

Deep gold flowers with vermillion centre usually 6cms in diameter, bronze foliage. A must for any border.

This variety may be found in our Celebration Border

Ms Kennedy

Large Pompom

Height – 120cm

Rich flame orange. A strong grower, remove dead heads to prolong flowering.

Murillo

U Single Dwarf Bedder

Height – 45cm

Bright lilac pink blooms with darker eye
Very free flowering. Makes a showy
addition to the border.

**This variety may be found in our
Celebration Border**

Nargold

Medium-flowered Fimbriated Cactus

Height – 105cm

Rich orange blooms with yellow flush at
base. Fimbriated petals. Very striking.

Nenekazi

Medium-flowered Fimbriated

Height – 120cm

Blends of pale bronze and pinks.
An unusual eye-catching variety.

Oretti Bliss

Small Cactus

Height - 120cm

Superb white blooms of excellent form.
A good exhibition variety.

Park Princess

Dwarf Bedder

Height – 60cm

Double pink cactus flowers with lighter
centre. **This variety may be found in our
Celebration Border**

Pasodoble

Anemone Flowered

Height – 105cm

Bright yellow central tubular florets,
which are fimbriated, surrounded by
flattened ring of pale yellow outer
petals. **One of our Customers
Favourites in 2017.**

Pooh AGM

Collerette

Height – 100cm

Scarlet tipped yellow blooms, with a
yellow collar. A real eye catcher.

**One of our Customers Favourites
in 2017.**

Preston Park AGM

Single Dwarf Bedder

Height - 45cm

Bright scarlet blooms, nearly black
foliage. **This variety may be found in our
Celebration Border**

Purple Puff

Anemone

Height – 75cm

Bright purple flowers with yellowy centre.
**This variety may be found in our
Celebration Border**

Roxy

U Single, Dwarf Bedder

Height - 45cm

Lovely single magenta/purple flowers on
dark foliage. Very eye catching.

**This variety may be found in our
Celebration Border**

Royal Blood

U Collerette

A Ken Stock Dahlia

Height – 105cm

Deep velvet red petals with yellow centre
**This variety may be found in our
Celebration Border**

Ryecroft Jim

Anemone

Height - 90cm

Cerise flowers with a gold cushion centre.

Ryecroft Laura

Miniature Ball

Height – 120cm

Yellow with good form.

New to our list for 2018

Sam Hopkins

U Waterlily

Height - 105cm

Unique blackberry red flowers.

A very lovely dahlia.

Shandy

Small-flowered Semi-Cactus

Height – 105cm

Sparkling shades of apricot and salmon.

Sir Alf Ramsey

Giant-flowered Decorative

Height – 105cm

Immense blooms of Lavender-Pink with a white base.

A very impressive variety.

Small World AGM

Pompon

Height – 105cm

Exhibition white pompon.

Sorbet

Medium Semi-cactus

Height – 120cm

White with heavily tipped petals of rosy purple. Ruby red. Very free flowering.

Suffolk Punch

Medium-flowered Decorative

Height – 120cm

Wine red with bronze foliage.

Terrie Bandey

U Fimbriated

A Ken Stock Dahlia

Height - 105cm

Amber fimbriated flowers of good depth.

Tomo

Small-flowered Decorative

Height – 135cm

Purple, heavily tipped white. Very free flowering.

Trelyn Seren

Single Star

Height - 105cm

Pale Pink with yellow centre.

Very attractive to Bees.

Cut when flowers are young.

****This variety may be found in our Celebration Border****

Twynings After Eight AGM

Single

Height - 100cm

White single flowers with a hint of pale pink. Very attractive in a mixed border.

Weston Pirate AGM

Miniature-flowered Cactus

Height – 1m

Deep blood red blooms suitable for exhibition or borders, very free flowering.

White Alva's AGM

Giant-flowered Decorative

Height – 120cm

Lovely white formal blooms, suitable for exhibition.

White Ballet AGM

Waterlily

Height – 120cm

Pure white blooms freely produced.

A must for floral artists!

In addition to the varieties that we propagate here on our nursery we also grow some Dahlias with series names.

They are:

Gallery = Fully double miniature decorative, height 25-35cm, available in 3ltr pots late May.

XXL = Fully double large flowers, height 40-45cm, available in 3ltr pots late May.

Maxi= Small decorative type height 40-50cm available in 3ltr pots late May.

Happy = Single flowers 55-75cm available in 3ltr pots late May.

Piccolo = Dwarf with semi double small flowers, 15-20cm this series are available in 11cm pots from May onwards.

Dahlietta = Dwarf semi double and collerette flowers suitable for bedding. Height 20-25cm this series are available in 1.5ltr pots July onwards.

These plants are all protected by plant breeder's rights and are therefore not propagated on our nursery. All are particularly suited for patios and containers. They should be fed regularly ideally with a high potash liquid feed such as Tomorite. The removal of dead heads will prolong flowering.

The Aylett Recipe For Best Results...

Dahlias grow best in a water-retentive soil but one that drains freely. They flower prolifically when planted in a sunny site sheltered from strong winds. The soil preparation should begin during the winter with plenty of organic matter being dug into the soil. Ideally the following spring at about 3-4 weeks before planting a slow acting fertilizer such as Bonemeal should be forked into the soil.



Spacing

Dahlias require plenty of room to develop, ideally 60cm-90cm (2ft -3ft) between plants, the larger the flower the larger the space. The Bedding Dahlias require less space and can be planted as close as 22cm-30cm (9-12ins) these then can be grown without staking although if the site is prone to winds they will benefit from short canes between the plants.

Planting Out

Dahlias should not be planted out until all fear of frosts is past; normally this is the end of May beginning of June. All sites differ and its best to keep an ear to your local forecasts, often a covering of frost protection material is all it needs to prevent your plants from being damaged.

Before planting water, the young plants well. Plant in a good quality compost, firstly, because it retains moisture to help plant growth, and secondly, when the tuber is lifted in autumn, compost falls away, leaving a clean tuber. Make a hole 20cm square and 20cms deep and put in half a bucket of compost and insert a strong cane or stake in the hole.

Remove the plant from the pot taking care not to disturb the root ball. With a hand trowel, place the plant next to the stake and firm in well. Plant so that the final soil level is just below the lowest leaves – and water in. Remember to label each plant.

Tying up immediately after planting is a good idea and will protect the young plants from strong winds that might cause damage. As soon as the plants start to grow a high Nitrogen feed such as Fish, Blood and Bone should be applied around each plant. Take great care not to scorch the plants.

Young plants can also attract slugs so a few slug pellets scattered around the plants is advisable, not forgetting to use the bird friendly ones.

Stopping



'Stopping' is the removal of the growing tip when about four pairs of leaves have been formed. Nip out the tip just above the third pair of leaves but avoid squashing the stem.

Strong side shoots will develop at the leaf joints, to form the framework of the plant. Plants have often been stopped by us before you purchase so as to produce a stronger plant. If you are planning to exhibit and like to regulate your stopping times, unstopped plants are usually available.

Growing on and Feeding

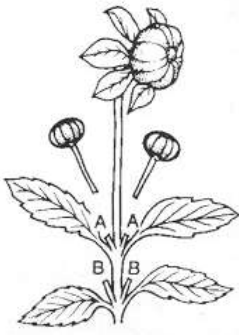
Early in the season weeds should be kept at bay by shallow hoeing this will also keep the soil surface open. By August apply a mulch of suitable material such as garden compost or straw. Be sure to water during hot dry conditions, preferably in the evening.

Depending on the richness of the soil, feeding with a liquid feed every 14 days can be advantageous. From August onwards, a high potash fertilizer is recommended, such as Tomato feed, this will help with flower colour, stem strength, root growth and tuber formation.

Dahlias suffer from the usual garden pests, Earwigs being the one most closely associated with the genus. We here at St Albans never find this to be a great problem but a spraying program carried out on a regular basis will prevent an outbreak of undesirable pests. Massed borders in parks and gardens produce magnificent displays without the use of pesticides just leaving Mother Nature to her own devices. If you must spray do so in the evening when the bees have finished their work for the day. Towards the end of the season especially if it has been hot and dry Dahlias can be infected with mildew This takes the form of a white powdery covering on the leaves and stems, to combat this disease spray every two weeks with Fungus Fighter.

Always read the label! When using Pesticides and Fertilisers, always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Disbudding



Disbudding is the removal of the buds that form at the leaf axils; this has the effect of producing long stemmed quality blooms. As a general rule the first two pairs of buds below the terminal bud are removed. The number of buds or growths removed will influence the size of the flower. This process is necessary if you intend to exhibit your Dahlias.

For a good garden display disbudding is not always necessary. As each terminal bud flowers and becomes past its best, carefully remove it to allow the side shoots to develop. All old flowers should be removed to encourage further side buds to develop and flower.

Lifting and Storing of Tubers

Dahlia tubers should not be lifted until after a frost. They should be cut down to 6ins from soil level and carefully dug up. Take care not to damage the crown as it is from this point that next year's shoots emerge.

Tubers should be dried and it is advisable to stand them upside down in order to allow moisture in the stems to drain away. Ideally, they should be put in wooden boxes, packed with dry peat, vermiculite, straw or even newspaper to stop them drying out and kept in a frost-free place. Most garden sheds and garages are not frost proof. They should not be kept in too warm a place as they will shrivel or a cold damp situation where they will rot. It is advisable to examine tubers several times in the winter and if, any trace of rot is found, they should be treated with a protection fungicide.

How to find Aylett Nurseries...

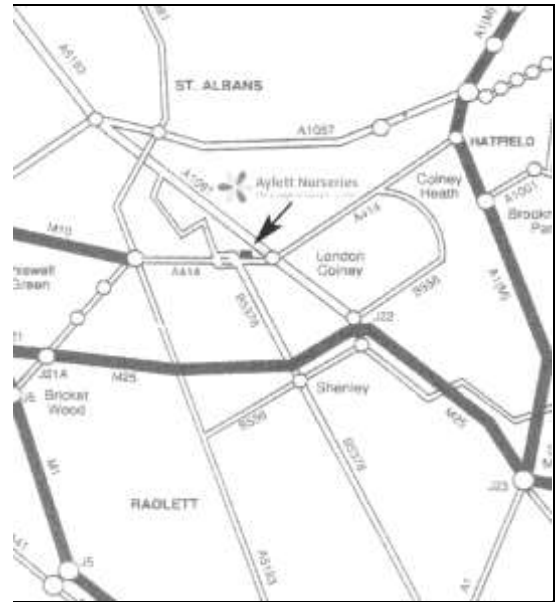
Aylett Nurseries are beside the east-bound carriageway of the A414 (was A405) near London Colney.

From Hatfield: Leave A1(M) south of Hatfield tunnel and follow signs west for A414. On dual carriageway opposite Aylett Nurseries take slip-road on left, immediately turn right and cross over bridge to return downhill to nurseries on other carriageway.

From east on M25: Leave motorway at junction 22, and follow signs for St. Albans, at 2nd roundabout take exit 2, A414 for Hemel.

On dual carriageway opposite Aylett Nurseries take slip-road on left, immediately turn right and cross over bridge to return downhill to nurseries on other carriageway.

From west on M25: Leave at junction 21A signed St. Albans, join A405 for Hatfield, at roundabout junction with M10 take A414 for Hatfield. Aylett Nurseries is 1¼ miles on the left.



Opening Hours:

Monday - Friday - 8.30am - 5.30pm

Saturday - 8.30am - 5.00pm

Sunday - 10.30am - 4.30pm

30mins browsing time on a Sunday morning between the hours of 10-10.30am, cash desks open promptly at 10.30am.

Address & Contact Details:

North Orbital Road (A414)

St. Albans

Hertfordshire

AL2 1DH

Tel: 01727 822255

Fax: 01727 823024

E-mail: info@aylettnurseries.co.uk

Web: www.aylettnurseries.co.uk

This leaflet is available in other formats - please ask a member of staff for details