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March - Time to Wake Up the Tubers

March 2022



Jessica - Photo, ADS Archive

Here in Virginia, I have begun to move tubers from bags to flats lined with a mixture of peat moss and vermiculite. I haven't seen an eye yet. I divide in the fall and bag all divisions with a bit of stem. When first removed from storage, some tubers will not

have eyes, but with patience, many will. I sprinkle the flats lightly and hope that the area around the tubers warms up to 65 degrees.

The “experts” may have started earlier and have taken cuttings and are rooting them. Some folks move tubers set in pots or flats to sunny parts of the house - spouses willing. This process works in most places, although some growers wait a month and others plant right from storage into the ground during May. By then eyes will develop on their own.

Tubers need very little water until they have started to put out roots. Too much water on tubers will cause rot. When the plants start to grow the roots will seek water and moisture.

If you plant a clump with several eyes or shoots, they will be competing for water and food in the same space. It is easier to just replant the clump, but better to divide the clump into individual tubers.



Three or four Jackie Evangelista dahlias? - Photo by Jackie Evangelista

I also planted some dahlia seeds during mid-March. There are several ways to do this. See links below. Many germinate in a few days, and like most plant seeds will need moisture and light to develop vigorously.

If you ordered dahlia tubers from suppliers or acquired some from your local dahlia club, it is useful to pot them up in a container with a tag until planting time. Good roots are the start of good blooms.

Last month we added a short survey that will help us improve this newsletter. We received over 100 responses but would appreciate more to get additional ideas. [Go to survey.](#)

This newsletter needs a name! Check out the contest below.

This year the ADS National Dahlia Show will be held in Virginia near Dulles International Airport. See our [show website](#) for information.

May your tubers all have eyes,

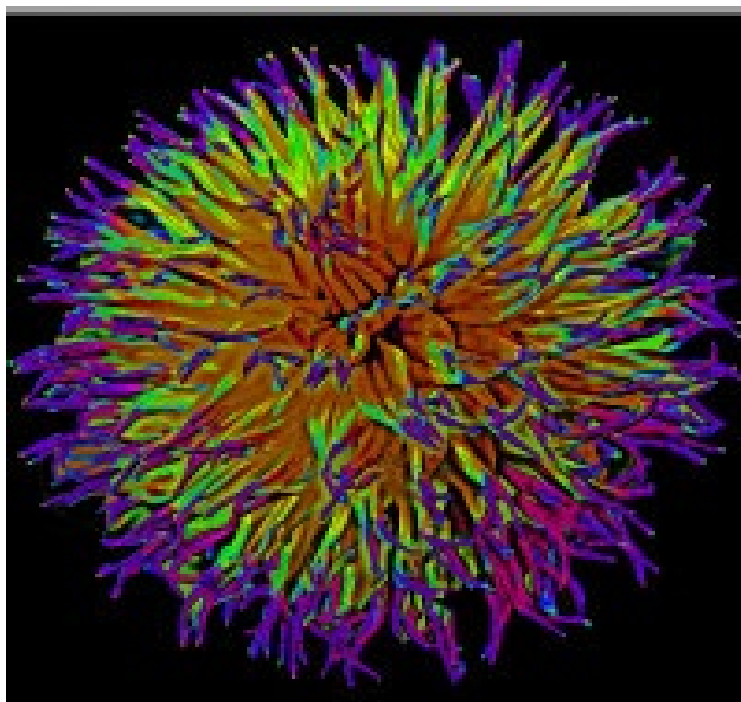
Harry Risetto



Contest

This month we are having a contest to find a new name for the newsletter. Submit your ideas [here](#). If your name is selected you will receive a dahlia book to enjoy.

ADS 2021 Photo Contest Winner



"My Beverly" at Night - Winner 2021 ADS Photo Contest - Photo by Mel Epstein

Links

[Finding eyes](#)

[Starting seeds on paper towels](#)

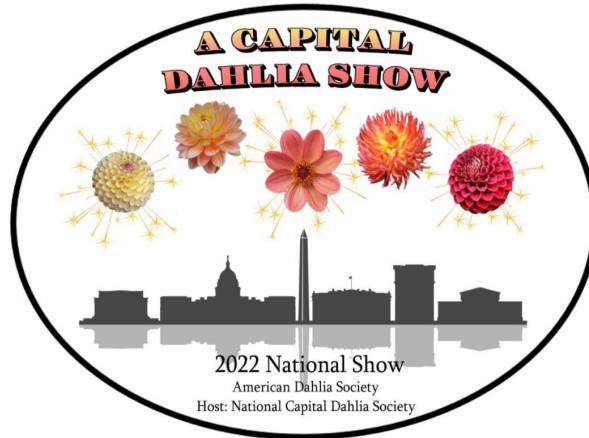
[Growing seeds](#)

[Starting in pots](#)

[Dividing in spring](#)

[How to split dahlias](#)

[Cutting Dahlia Tubers](#)



[More information about the show.](#)

American Dahlia Society

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Archive of previous emails [here](#).

