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Dahlia Talk *from tubers to blooms*

January - Where have all the tubers gone?



2023 New Intro and Evie Gullikson Medal winner, Kelsey Neahkahnle.

Originated by Colin Walker.

Happy New Year!

Many dahlia growers buy new and favorite cultivars from commercial dahlia sellers. This past fall many of these dealers were already sold out of new cultivars and recent award winners. Do not despair! After a forty-year addiction to each year's debutantes, I can confidently say that new releases and award winners are not the only path to the head table.

The best alternative is your local dahlia club. Members contribute their extra tubers and rooted cuttings, and they are sold to other members, and often the public, in order to raise funds. In most cases they are accurately named and described. Most importantly, they have been grown in the local area. The [ADS website](#) will post local sales as the information becomes available (late winter).



Kelvin Floodlight, a popular retail outlet dahlia. Photo by Bob Leonelli.

The third source, and most common one, is imported tubers or clumps from Holland. Millions of tubers are imported each spring. They are available from garden centers, box stores, and from the Internet. Our local hardware store sells them. For the most part they are disease and virus free. Typically, they bloom true as named. The biggest risk is that they are boxed loosely and shipped in peat moss. Expect some damage to the necks. If you pot them quickly, usually one or two will develop and bloom from the pot root.

My bags of tubers are still hibernating in vermiculite. Some growers check them monthly. I may be lazy, because I let them sit until late February. I have relatively little rot because I divide the clumps and dust the cut surfaces with [Vikron](#) before bagging.

Last year I opened the bags during January, but eyes were slow to sprout. Tubers will spring to life on their own calendar.

We are still waiting for snow in Northern Virginia.

More Information

dahliaaddict.com is a great place to find cultivars and who sells them.

A fun way to start dahlias, [video](#).

A UK expert starts his tubers and plants cuttings from the tubers, [video](#).

How to Start Dahlias Early Indoors, Northlawn Flower Farm, [video](#).

Starting dahlias tubers indoors, Monica Katie's Garden, [video](#).

How to Plant Dahlias Early - Pots & Trowels, [video](#).

Planting Dahlia Tubers in Pots & Containers, Kristine Albrecht in California, [video](#).

American Dahlia Society

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American Dahlia Society | 38430 Piggott Bottom Road | Hamilton, VA 20158 US

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