

ADS Dahlia University – Color Classes

Dahlias are described by 16 color classes. Some dahlia forms will have several colors designations. For example: an orchette will have colors assigned to petal reverse, petal face, and petaloids.

W = White

Y = Yellow

OR = Orange

PK = Pink

DP = Dark Pink

R = Red

DR = Dark Red

L = Lavender

PR = Purple

LB = Light Blend

Blends dominated by the lighter tints and tones of pink, yellow, lavender, and other pastels; also two-toned varieties of pastel tints and tones in which the central rays are of a different color than the marginal rays. Ignore white when determining a light or dark blend.

BR = Bronze

FL = Flame Blend

Blends of red or orange hue that merges with yellow. All blend cultivars possessing these color chips are Flame Blends.

DB = Dark Blend

Blends dominated by dark reds, pinks, purples, oranges, lavenders and bronzes. Ignore white when determining a dark blend.

V = Variegated

Two or more distinct colors on the face of the ray florets, the variegating color arranged in dots, flecks, splashes, stripes, or narrow lines, which contrast with the basic color(s).

BI = Bicolor

Two or more distinct, clear and sharply separated colors on the face of the ray florets with the tip or central stripe contrasting. Classify all blends (FL, LB, DB) and variegated with bicolor tips as bicolors.

BK = Black

Our courses are written by dahlia enthusiasts, not necessarily scientists or horticulturalists. These enthusiasts are pleased to share their experience and best practices with you. Please keep in mind that there are a variety of opinions in the dahlia community and that different solutions and procedures work in different circumstances and locales. We urge you to participate in a [local society](#) where you will meet great growers with knowledge of growing dahlias in your area...and you'll have fun!