Flora Fields Charity Dahlia Dig Up

Everything You'll Need To Know...

1. Lift the Tubers

Cut back the foliage so that the plants are easier to handle. Then, gently use your garden fork to lift the tubers from the ground.

Remove as much soil as you can (too much left on can make them rot), and trim the remaining foliage back to about 2–3 inches.

Left image: shows placement of fork to dig, and the plant after removing foliage

Don't forget to label each tuber - string, tape, or waterproof tags work perfectly. Note the variety - it'll save you a headache next spring!

Right image: shows a tuber after having the excess soil removed and labelled

2. Dry the Tubers

Place your tubers upside down in a container so any water in the hollow stems can drain away. Optional: line the bottom with newspaper or paper towels, but be sure to swap them out if they get damp.

Leave the tubers in a cool, dry, frost-free spot for up to two weeks - this helps the skin toughen up and any remaining moisture escape. Avoid direct sunlight or hot areas, or they might shrivel too quickly.

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3. Clean the Tubers
Once dry, gently remove any remaining soil by hand. You can use a soft brush if needed, but avoid damaging the tuber. Cut off any damaged sections, as these are likely to rot.

4. Store for Winter
In a box or container, place the tubers the right way up on a bed of dry, breathable material such as wood shavings, dried compost, straw, shredded paper, or vermiculite. Make sure the tubers aren't touching to help prevent disease spread. Keep the crate in a dry, dark, frost-free location such as a shed or garage.

5. Check Throughout Winter
Inspect the tubers monthly for signs of rot. Again, if a section begins to show signs of rot, cut it off to stop the rot from spreading.

6. Plant in Spring
After the frost, dig out tubers, remove damaged sections, and divide large clumps so each piece has one healthy "eye." Plant in a sunny, well-drained spot or greenhouse, eye facing up. Water lightly when shoots appear and feed every few weeks with low-nitrogen, high-phosphorus fertiliser for strong growth and blooms.

If you've forgotten labels, you can note the dahlia varients here:

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