

**DAHLIA DIG-DIVIDE-STORE CHECK-OFF LIST - 2022**

**PREPARATIONS:**

**CONFIRM BLOOM = CORRECT VARIETY**

ON VARIETY LIST, STAKE, PLASTIC PLANT LABEL

**COUNT NODES FROM GROUND TO BLOOM**

REFERENCE ADS BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 2010 - APICAL DOMINANCE

**TIMING: 2ND KILLING FROST**

**OR 120 DAYS IN GROUND - JUNE, JULY, AUG, SEPT**

INDICATIONS - ALL BLACK FOLIAGE FROM GROUND UP. MID OCTOBER

MOW AND BAG TREE LEAVES APROX. 1 BAG PER 2 PLANTS

TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETING DIGGING AND PROCESSING OUTSIDE IS HALLOWEEN

MAKE THAT THANKSGIVING DAY...MAYBE CHRISTMAS... OR NEW YEAR'S DAY

DEADLINE IS GROUNDHOG DAY...(WHEN CUTTINGS START)

**DRESS FOR THE WEATHER**

FLANNEL SHIRT, NEOPRENE GLOVES, KNEE WADERS, RAIN GEAR

EAR MUFFS, NECK GATOR IF WINDY. READING GLASSES, I-PHONE

**DIGGING AND CLUMP WASHING TOOLS**

SHOVEL, SPADE FORK, PITCH FORK, GARDEN HOSE WITH SHUTOFF

7 FUNCTION SPRAY NOZZLE WITH THUMB DRIVE ON-OFF VALVE

BYPASS PRUNER, LOPPER, WALPAPER KNIFE

LAUNDRY BASKET FOR WEEDS. 6" POT FOR STONES

WHEELBARROW FOR SCRAPS

**IF NIGHT-TIME:**

EXTENSION CORDS, HALOGEN WORK LIGHTS

**OUTSIDE PROCESSING SETUP**

BOOM BOX WITH CASSETTES AND/OR CD'S

2 - 20 GALLON TUBS. BLEACH. (POOL SHOCK SHOULD WORK AT 1/2 AMOUNT)

HOOKUP HOT WATER GARDEN HOSE FROM BASEMENT TO TUBS

NOTE - IF FREEZING OVERNIGHT, DISCONNECT AND DRAIN ALL HOSES

1ST 20 GALLON TUB - MAKE 10% BLEACH SOLUTION. IE.2 : 20 GALLON

2ND 20 GALLON TUB - MAKE FRESH CLEAR RINSE WATER

SPAGHETTI SPOON, PLASTIC TONGS, ICE FISHING SCOOP

SETUP TABLE FOR PRELIMINARY DRYING TUBERS

STAGE GARBAGE CANS FOR 2" X 2" X 4' WOODEN STAKES

JUNK DRY HAND TOWELS

PAPER GROCERY BAG FOR EACH VARIETY

OPTIONALLY TIE PLANT LABEL TO CLUMP USING PHONE WIRE

IF PLANT LABEL HAS HOLE DRILLED INTO TOP

**PROCEDURE**

POKE SIDE OF STANDING STALKS WITH AN AWL TO RELEASE ANY SITTING WATER  
PULL PLANT LABEL AND YANK OUT STAKE. IF BROKEN, PRY OUT WITH SHOVEL.  
IF PLANT LABEL POINTS UP NEXT TO STAKE, REPLACEMENT WAS PLANTED  
CUT BLACKENED STALK AND FOLIAGE DOWN TO SOLID SECTION ABOVE GROUND  
SALVAGE WOODEN GOLF TEES. FINGER COTS, JUTE TWINE, AND SCRAPS TO W-BARROW  
IF HOLLOW OR BROWN SMOKE RING APPEARS, PROCESS FIRST AND MARK IT PRIORITY  
IF MORE THAN ONE STALK, LOOK TO DIVIDE CLUMP BY PULLING STALKS APART  
SINK FORK 6" TO 8" FROM STALK. DAHLIAS WERE PLANTED APROX. 4" FROM STAKE..  
IF FREE, LIFT CLUMP AND WASH WITH SPRAYER. IF RESISTANCE, FORK THE SIDES.  
PROCESS 1/2 DOZEN PLANTS KEEPING STAKE WITH WASHED CLUMP AND PLANT LABEL

**STERILIZE CLUMPS**

SET I-PHONE TIMER FOR 5 MINUTES  
ONE AT A TIME, PLUNGE ENTIRE CLUMP IN BLEACH TUB FOR 5 MINUTES, (NO LONGER)  
AT 5 MINUTES, PLUNGE BLEACHED CLUMP INTO RINSE TUB  
PLUNGE NEXT CLUMP FROM GARDEN INTO BLEACHED TUB  
MOVE RINSED CLUMP TO DRYING TABLE. LAWN IF DRY WORKS TOO.  
NOTE - DRYING TABLE OUT OF THE WIND AND SUN AND NEVER ON CONCRETE  
WHEN CLUMP DRY TO THE TOUCH, BAG IT WITH THE PLANT LABEL.  
REPEAT PROCESS UNTIL BATCH IS COMPLETE. BATCH A DOZEN PER DAY TO GAUGE.  
INCREASE OR DECREASE CLUMPS PER BATCH AS PACE ESTABLISHED FOR TIME.

**SAFETY NOTES:**

RINSE TUB CAN BE USED FOR BLEACH SPLASHED IN THE EYE  
DON'T CUT OFF FINGERS WITH KNIVES OR PRUNERS. USE CHAIN MAIL GLOVE.  
DON'T SLIP A DISK WHEN YANKING STAKES OUT OF THE GROUND.  
LOOSEN AND SWIVEL USING JET SPRAY AT BASE OF STAKE

**INSIDE PROCESSING SETUP - ITEMS FOR DIVIDING TUBER CLUMPS:**

SETUP DESK AND CHAIR IN BASEMENT WITH GOOD OVERHEAD LED LIGHTING  
GARBAGE CAN FOR SCRAPS ON SIDE OF DESK  
LIGHTED GOOSENECK STANDING MAGNIFIER (TO LOOK FOR EYES)  
CUTTING BOARD  
PRUNER, LOPPER, STAINLESS STEEL SCISSORS, VARIOUS KNIVES:  
WALLPAPER KNIVES WITH REPLACEMENT BLADES  
PARING KNIFE, BUTCHER KNIFE, 6" FISH FILET KNIFE  
ELECTRIC KNIFE SHARPENER  
CHAIN MAIL GLOVE. FIRST AID KIT.  
CONTAINERS FOR BLEACH SOLUTION TO STERILIZE SHORT AND LONG KNIVES  
JUNK WASH-CLOTH FOR DRYING OFF BLEACH SOLUTION ON KNIVES  
HAND BRUSH FOR CLEARING CUTTING BOARD SCRAPS INTO WASTE BASKET  
GROUT BRUSH TOOL FOR CLEARING EMBEDDED DIRT

**DAHLIA DIVISION FUNDAMENTALS:**

PLENTY OF YOUTUBE VIDEOS TO WATCH. CSDS HAS AN EXCELLENT LINK ON NEWSLETTER  
CARDINAL RULE - STERILIZE ALL CUTTING TOOLS USED BETWEEN EACH CLUMP  
TRIM TAIL ROOTS. TRASH ROTTED TUBERS. TRASH TUBERS WITH BROKEN NECKS  
NOTE - STRAINED NECKS CAN BE REPAIRED WITH CRAZY GLUE SOMETIMES.  
CUT STALK DOWN TO HIGHEST TUBER. LOOK FOR BROWN SMOKE RING INDICATING START OF ROT  
EYES MAY BE APPARENT OR NOT SO JUST CUT TUBER TO GET SOME OF THE CROWN.  
LEAVE SHORT HAIR ROOTS ALONE. THEY WILL SWELL FIRST WHEN PLANTED.  
ALWAYS DOUBLE CHECK WHERE THE KNIFE WILL GO BEFORE CUTTING. CUT AWAY FROM YOU  
THE FIRST THOUSAND WILL BUILD A MUSCLE MEMORY FOR THE NEXT THOUSAND.  
TRIM ALL NECROTIC TISSUE TO REVEAL CLEAN TISSUE ESPECIALLY ON THE CROWN

**KEEP TRACK OF VARIETY:**

USING BLACK SHARPIE MARKING PEN, MARK EACH TUBER WITH CLASS # AND VARIETY INITIALS  
DOUBLE CHECK AGAINST THIS YEAR'S VARIETY LISTING USING CURRENT CHD / COMPOSITE

**INSIDE PROCESSING SETUP - ITEMS FOR FUNGICIDE WET DIP:**

2 - 6 QUART CLEAR PLASTIC SHOEBOX CONTAINERS  
OXO STRAINER TO PROCESS FUNGICIDE DIP  
PLASTIC TONGS TO AVOID TOUCHING FUNGICIDE DIP  
MEASURING AND STIRRING SPOONS  
VARIOUS FUNGICIDES: ONE TABLE SPOON EACH, (AT MOST), PER 6 QUART DIP  
CAPTAN, CLEARY'S-3336F, FUNGINOL, COPPER FUNGICIDE,

**INSIDE PROCESSING SETUP - FUNGICIDE WET DIP PROCEDURE:**

DUNK ALL THE FRESHLY CUT TUBERS INTO WET DIP  
DURATION OF DUNK DEPENDS ON HOW LONG TO CUT UP NEXT CLUMP AND MARK  
ALL OF THE TUBERS SHOULD SINK TO BOTTOM  
FLOATERS INDICATE ROT EITHER TAIL, OR BODY, OR CROWN DEPENDING ON POSITION OF FLOAT  
REMOVE WITH TONGS AND START CUTTING TO FIND OUT WHERE.  
STRAIN OUT TUBERS BY POURING FROM ONE SHOEBOX TO THE EMPTY ONE  
WITH TONGS REMOVE TUBERS WITH PLANT LABEL TO BED OF CEDAR SHAVINGS IN EMPTY BOX  
COVER WITH SHAVINGS AND CURE FOR A DAY OR TWO WITH OPEN COVER.

NOTE: STORAGE MEDIUM COULD BE CEDAR SHAVINGS, BONE DRY DIRT, SHREDDED JUNK MAIL  
DRY OR HARDLY MOIST PEAT MOSS, VERMICULITE, PERLITE. EXPERIMENT WITH THEM ALL

NOTE I USE 6 QUART CLEAR PLASTIC SHOEBOXES WITH LIDS SO I CAN STACK THEM UP

NOTE: FURTHER OPTIONS INCLUDE DRY POWDERED SULFUR SHAKE-N-BAKE

**INSIDE PROCESSING SETUP - ITEMS FOR DRY FUNGICIDE SHAKE-N-BAKE**

POWDERED SULFUR - ONE TABLE SPOON  
1 CUP OF FINE VERMICULITE  
COMBINE ABOVE IN 1 GALLON ZIP LOC BAG AND ZIP SHUT  
THROW IN TUBERS AND COAT THEM BY ROTATING THE SEALED BAG  
REMOVE WITH LATEX OR NITRILE GLOVES ON AND COVID MASK TO AVOID INHALING

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| DON'T GET THE SULFUR IN YOUR EYES.   |
| ALTERNATE TO SULFUR IS HYDROLIZED LIME, IE. POWDERED BARN LIME - LESS EXTREME.   |
| DON'T GET EITHER IN YOUR EYES.   |
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| <b>INSIDE PROCESSING SETUP - SARAN WRAP STORAGE METHOD</b>   |
| CLEAR PLASTIC SARAN WRAP CAN BE USED TO PREVENT TRANSMISSION OF ROT FROM ONE TUBER TO THE NEXT AND TO RETAIN TUBER MOISTURE IN PENCIL THIN TUBERS AND / OR NECKS |
| REPLACES AN OLDER METHOD OF WAXING TUBERS WITH PARAFIN 'GULF WAX' NORMALLY USED IN CANNING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. SAME COATING AS IS ON RAW RUTABAGA.            |
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| <b>PERIODIC FOLLOWUP OF STORAGE:</b>   |
| AT LEAST WEEKLY, VIEW EACH CONTAINER FOR CONDENSATION ON THE INSIDE WHICH INDICATES TOO MUCH MOISTURE IN THE STORAGE. CHANGE MEDIUM AND CHECK FOR ROT.           |
| AT LEAST MONTHLY, OPEN EACH CONTAINER AND REMOVE ROT AND ADDRESS SHRIVEL.  |
| LIGHT MOLD CAN BE BRUSHED OFF. SARAN WRAP SHOULD BE UN-WRAPED AND RE-WRAPED  |
| EXPERIMENT CONTINUES WITH HYDROGEN PEROXIDE TO KILL MOLD.  |
| CONCENTRATION AND DURATION NEEDS TO BE NAILED DOWN.  |
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| <b>OTHER NOTES:</b>  |
| NO NITROGEN AFTER LABOR DAY  |
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