

June Dahlia Growing Guide: Tying and Stopping

Tying

As Dahlias grow and bloom, they need to be supported to promote straight stems and to prevent damage. Tying the dahlia stalk to the stake is the easiest method for most growers. Start tying when the plants are 12” to 18” tall and continue tying every twelve to eighteen inches up to 4 feet.

Stopping

Dahlia growers learned long ago that by removing the growing tip of the plant a dahlia will produce multiple branches and blooms. The terms “stopping” or “topping” refer to the practice of removing (pinching out) the growing tip on the dahlia. Generally, most growers wait until there are 3 or 4 sets of leaves before removing the growing tip. For YouTube fans, Kristine Albrecht has a great [video](#) about stopping, “Pinching Off Young Dahlia Plants for More Blooms.”

Submitted by Justine Dial and Laura Matz. Adapted from the Puget Sound Dahlia Association.