

# “How to Grow Dahlias” - Rob & Denise Sherriff, Honey Tye, Leavenheath

Rob and his wife Denise moved from Worcestershire five years ago - together with more than 1,000 dahlias - and spent some time preparing their two acres of clay ready for the tubers.

Rob is a perfectionist and has won numerous prizes over the years for his blooms, so spends hours propagating, staking, disbudding and checking for a variety of pests that attack dahlias - especially his nemesis the earwig!

It is time well spent as the resulting blooms are superb, which we will see from the excellent photos that Denise has taken.

They now sell the dahlias as cut flowers and, because the demand grows all the time, they are now converting a barn from which to sell them.

*Rob and Denise will be selling dahlia tubers on the night .*

## Types of Dahlias

### GROUP 1 - SINGLE FLOWERED DAHLIAS.

Single dahlias have blooms with a single outer ring of florets, which may overlap, the centre forming a disc.



### GROUP 2 - ANEMONE FLOWERED DAHLIAS.

Anemone-flowered dahlias have blooms with one or more outer rings of generally flattened ray florets surrounding a dense group of tubular florets, and showing no disc.



### GROUP 3 - COLLERETTE DAHLIAS.

Collerette dahlias have blooms with a single outer ring of generally flat ray florets, which must overlap, with a ring of small florets (the collar) the centre forming a disc.



### GROUP 4 - WATERLILY DAHLIAS

Waterlily dahlias have fully double blooms characterised by broad ray florets that are slightly involute along their length (longitudinal axis) giving a saucer shaped appearance to the bloom. The depth should be not more than one third of the diameter of the bloom.



# Types of Dahlias

## GROUP 5 - DECORATIVE DAHLIAS

Decorative dahlias have fully double blooms showing no disc. The ray florets are generally broad and flat and may be involute for no more than 75% of their length (longitudinal axis) or slightly twisted, and usually bluntly pointed



## GROUP 6 - BALL DAHLIAS

Ball dahlias have fully double blooms, ball shaped or slightly flattened. The ray florets rounded at the tips, with margins spirally arranged and involute for at least 75% of the length of the florets



## GROUP 7 - POMPON DAHLIAS

Pompon dahlias have fully double spherical blooms, with florets largely involute along their length (longitudinal axis).



## GROUP 8 - CACTUS DAHLIAS

Cactus dahlias have fully double blooms, the ray florets are usually pointed, the majority narrow and revolute for 65% or more of their length (longitudinal axis) and either straight or incurving.



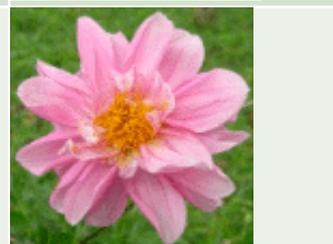
## GROUP 9 - SEMI-CACTUS DAHLIAS

Semi-Cactus dahlias have fully double blooms; the ray florets are usually pointed and revolute for more than 25% and less than 65% of their length and broad at the base and either straight or incurving.



## GROUP 10 - MISCELLANEOUS DAHLIAS

Any dahlias which do not fall into type 1 - 9 inclusive and type 11, 12,13 & 14 e.g. Thistle Dahlias, etc. This group includes species dahlias



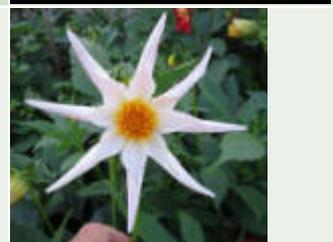
## GROUP 11 - FIMBRIATED DAHLIAS

Fimbriated dahlias have blooms where the tips of the ray florets should be evenly split or notched into two or more divisions, uniformly throughout the bloom to create a fringed overall effect. The petals may be flat, involute, revolute, straight, incurving or twisted.



## GROUP 12 - STAR DAHLIAS (formerly Single Orchid)

Star dahlias have blooms with a single outer ring of florets surrounding the disc. Ray florets are uniformly either involute or revolute.



## Types of Dahlias

### GROUP 13 - DOUBLE ORCHID DAHLIAS

Double Orchid dahlias have fully double blooms showing no disc and have triangular centres. Ray florets are narrowly lance shaped and either involute or revolute.



### GROUP 14 - PAEONY FLOWERED DAHLIAS.

Paeony dahlias have multiple outer rings of ray florets surrounding a disc, ray florets are flat or slightly involute at base and are flat or are to some extent revolute.

