

# Should you plant large tuber's



## I say NO to planting large tubers

**Well that is all good but why ?**

Large tubers can sometimes be enough to sustain the growing plant and may not produce other tubers. We need those tubers for the following year and the health of this growing plant. The below photos show a large single tuber planted. It did not produce any other tubers during the growing season ( it did grow long thin roots from the back end of the tuber, nothing from below the crown area). A fully developed single tuber plant will have a hard time taking in enough moisture on those extreme hot days. *Have you noticed during the hot days that one plant wilts more than the others and takes longer to recover, chances are it could be because of a single large tuber ( not enough surface area to absorb moisture in high demand times).*



Now the above statement is not the only reason why Dahlia plants do poorly during hot days, but it is one factor, and you can do something about it at the time of planting.

**Well I have a large tuber, what do I do about it. The answer is easy, reduce it's size**



Cut away two thirds of the tuber, seal the cut with cement powder or sulphur powder, I have heard people using cinnamon powder. ( I do this at the time of dividing my tubers others do it at the time of planting)



Can I plant both pieces, NO only the section with a neck and budding eye will grow

**I hear you asking, why will the reduced tuber make any difference**

The reduced size will not be enough to sustain the growing plant, so it will force the growing Dahlia to produce roots from the crown area (that will grow into tubers) to provide the growing plant with what it needs. Just the same as if you planted a small tuber



The below plant is the result of planting the reduced large tuber. It has grown other tubers and note: it formed tuber roots from the cut edge. This plant was strong and healthy producing show quality flowers



The cut away tuber right side



Seek out your nearest Dahlia Society and talk to the members to find out what they do.  
**Happy Dahlia growing** Information and photo's complied by Stephen at LouSam Dahlias 2023.