

# Digging, Dividing & Storing Dahlia Tubers

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# Agenda

Digging up Tubers

Dividing Tubers

Treating Tubers

Storing Tubers

Getting Ready for Next Year





# Its coming

Your garden has been growing and flowers have been blooming.

Psyche yourself up.



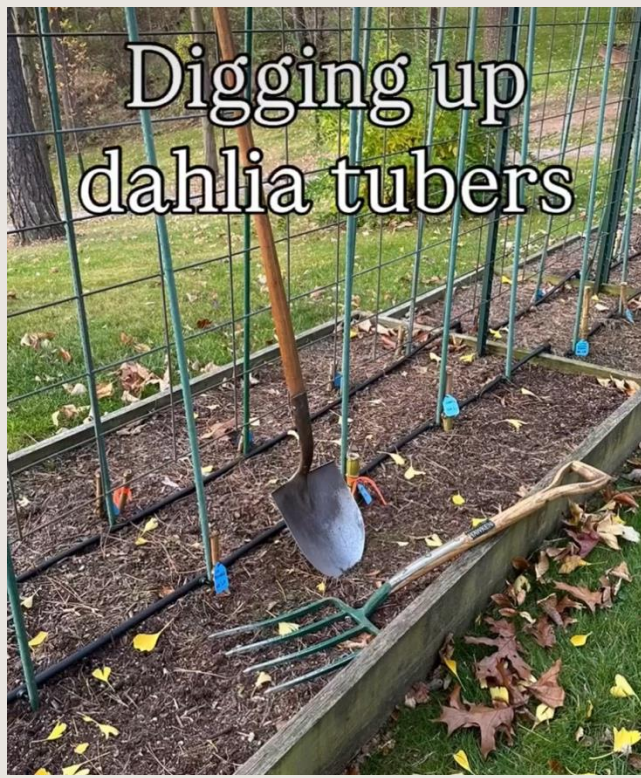




Saddest  
day in the  
garden

Blooms until hard  
frost





# Digging up Tubers





Move ID tag to bottom of stalk





Leave 6"-12" of stem when cutting







# Digging

Use a garden fork or shovel to loosen clumps

Make a wide circle around stem, wider than you think





# Prepare to wash

You'll get wet.

Rubber gloves, boots, apron

Elevated grid, over garden  
soil



# Washing

Spray off the soil

Let dry at least 24 hours

Not on cement







**Wash in the morning**

# Washing

Spray off the soil

Let dry at least 24 hours

Not on cement



**Dry outside for the rest of the day**



**Move inside to complete drying & await dividing**



# Dividing Tubers





# Dividing

Store dry tubers in clumps or divide prior to storing.

Must have an "eye."

- A tuber will not sprout unless it has at least one "eye."





# The Perfect Clump



Most tuber clumps do  
NOT look like this one!



# Dividing Tubers (the minimum)

Cut clump crown in half





# Dividing Tubers (completely)





# Tools





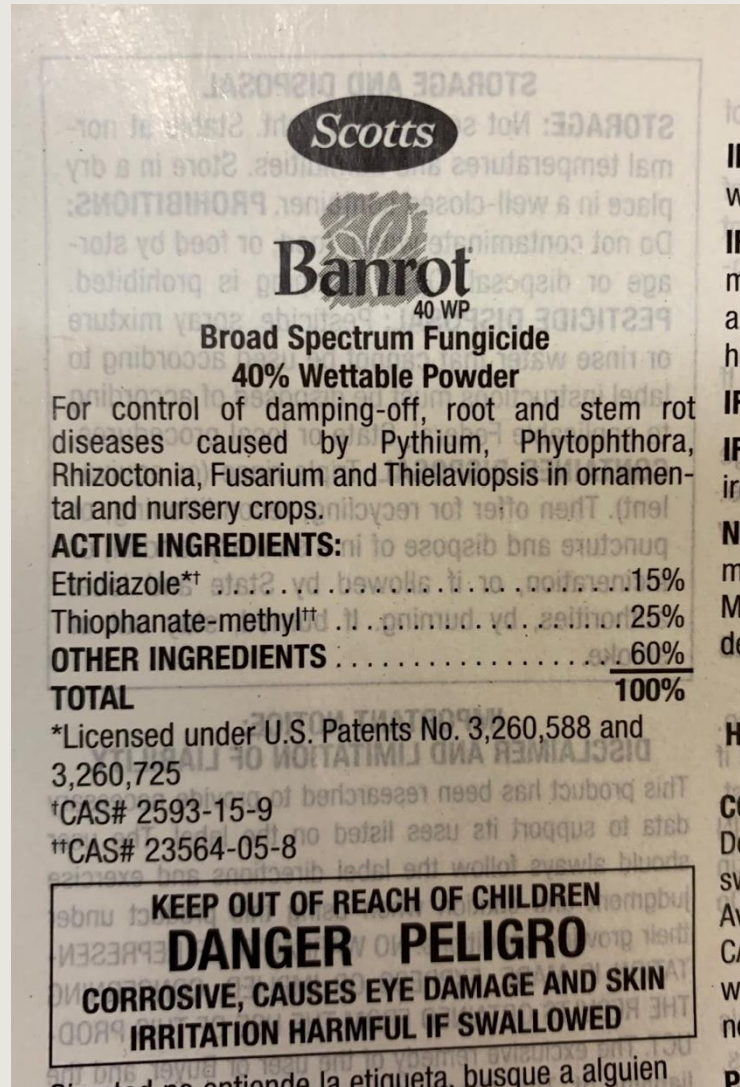
# Treating Tubers for Winter Storage





# Fungicide treatment

- Read the label
- Use Personal Protective Equipment





# Ceylon Cinnamon???









# Storage

Store at 38 – 50 degrees in a dark area. To help avoid rotting, tubers should not touch during storage.



**Storage Methods:** in vermiculite, sand, peat moss, in newspaper, Ziploc bags, wrapped in Saran Wrap... everyone has an opinion.

Or, leave them in the ground and buy new tubers next Spring.





# Getting Ready for Next Year







# Get ready for next year

Autumn is a great  
time to add your  
soil amendments  
for next year





- Leaf Humus
- Composted Manure
- Coffee grounds

Cultivate in







# Timeline

First Hard Frost  
Dahlia plants turn black and limp

Sadness in the Garden  
Cut off plants: 6 - 12" above  
ground level

You do NOT have to wait until  
frost/freeze. Cut down at your  
convenience

Mid Oct. - Early Nov.

2 weeks later

Dig up Tubers  
Make sure tag goes with  
clump  
Wash and lay out to dry

Divide

2 days later

After dividing

Treat for storage  
and dry

Store Tubers in a cool, dark, place  
(38-50 degrees)

Check tubers monthly  
dispose of desiccated, moldy, or  
rotted tubers

Pack them away



# Additional content

## SEMDS website

- [SEMDS.org](https://SEMDS.org)  
“Learn More” tab
- [Preparing/Storing Tubers over Winter TIP SHEET](#)

## Facebook

- Southeastern Michigan Dahlia Society
- <https://www.facebook.com/SEMDSOrg>

## SEMDS YouTube

- A Season of Growing Dahlias  
[Chapter 6 – Digging, Dividing, and Storing Dahlia Tubers](#)
- [Another Video on Digging, Dividing, and Storing Dahlia Tubers](#)

## American Dahlia Society

- Dahlia.org
- [Dahlia University](#) for information on harvesting and storing tubers
- <https://dahlia.org/growing/dahlia-university/>







The way to get  
started is to quit  
talking and begin  
doing.

Walt Disney

