



syngenta®flowers

# Dahlia Fresco™

## Culture Guide

**Botanical name:** *Dahlia hybrida*

**Product form:** Seed

**Containers:** Packs, Pints, Quarts, Gallons

**Habit:** Upright

### Garden Specifications

**Garden Height:** 10–12" (25–30 cm) tall

**Garden Width:** 7–9" (18–23 cm) wide

**Exposure:** Full sun

**USDA zone:** 11

**AHS zone:** 12–1

**Product use:** Packs, Containers, Landscapes, Patio Pots

### Germination

Stages 1 & 2

**Germination time:** 5 days

**Media temp:** 70 °F (21 °C)

**Chamber:** Optional

**Light:** Not required for germination

**Seed cover:** Yes

**Moisture level: 5 - SATURATED:** Soil is dark brown and shiny, free water is present at the surface of the soil, water drips freely from the bottom of the tray, and trays are heavy with a visible bend in the middle.

**Rec. tray size:** 288-cell tray

**Seeds per cell:** 1

### Young Plant Production

Stages 3 & 4

#### **Temperature**

**Day:** 70–72 °F (21–22 °C)

**Night:** 62–64 °F (17–18 °C)

**Average daily temperature:** 66 °F (19 °C)

#### **Lighting**

**Day extension lighting:** Necessary to 14 hours

**Light intensity:** 2,000–2,500 foot candles (400–500 micro mols)

**Day length response:** Facultative short day

**Daily light integral:** 8–10 mols/day

**Media pH:** 5.5–5.9

**Media EC:** SME 0.5 to 0.75 mS/cm

**Fertilizer:** 75–125 ppm N

**Moisture level:** Media should be allowed to dry between irrigations. Alternate between moisture level 3 and 4.

**3 - MOIST:** Soil is brown in color, strongly squeezing the soil will extract a few drops of water, and trays are light with no visible bend.

**4 - WET:** Soil is dark brown but not shiny, no free water is seen at the surface of the soil, when pressed or squeezed water drips easily, and trays are heavy with a visible bend in the middle.

**Pinching:** No

**Plant growth regulators (PGRs):** If needed, spray with B-Nine® WSG at 1,500–2,500 ppm.

**Plug grow time:** 3–4 weeks in a 288-cell tray

**Comments:** Provide day extension lighting to 12–14 hours/day to help prevent premature flower bud set.

### Finishing

#### **Temperature**

**Day:** 70–72 °F (21–22 °C)

**Night:** 62–64 °F (17–18 °C)

**Average daily temperature:** 66 °F (19 °C)

#### **Lighting**

**Day extension lighting:** Necessary to 14 hours

**Light intensity:** 4,000–6,000 foot candles

**Day length response:** Facultative short day

**Daily light integral:** 10–12 mols/day

**Transplanting:** Transplant directly into the finished container. Place the rooting media slightly below the level of media in the container. Make sure that the root ball is covered and the plug is situated in the center of the pot. If the plug is stretched, plant the plug to the depth of the cotyledons to increase stem strength.

**Media pH:** 5.5–5.9

**Media EC:** SME EC: 1.5–2.1 mS/cm, PourThru EC: 2.3–3.2 mS/cm

**Fertilizer:** 125–175 ppm N

**Pinching:** No. Pinching is not recommended or needed.

**Plant growth regulators (PGRs):** If needed, spray with B-Nine® WSG at 2,500–5,000 ppm.

**Tech tip:** It is critical to provide at least 12 hours or ideally 14 hours of light to help prevent tuber formation and to promote bulking. Planting the plugs deep helps strengthen the main stem. Dahlias are sensitive to overwatering; allow the media to dry between irrigations.

	<p>Try Chrysal Alesco®, a postharvest foliar spray, to protect ethylene sensitive crops during shipping and retail</p>
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**Moisture level:** Media should be allowed to dry between irrigations. Alternate between moisture level 2 and 4.

**2 - MEDIUM:** Soil is light brown in color, no water can be extracted from soil, and soil will crumble apart.

**4 - WET:** Soil is dark brown but not shiny, no free water is seen at the surface of the soil, when pressed or squeezed water drips easily, and trays are heavy with a visible bend in the middle.

**Common pests:** Aphids, Thrips

**Common diseases:** Powdery mildew, Pythium, Botrytis

## Scheduling

Size	Crop Time	Plants Per Pot
Large Packs	6–7 weeks	1 ppp
1.0 pint (4 inch)	6–8 weeks	1 ppp
1.0 quart (4.5 to 5 inch)	6–8 weeks	1 ppp
1.25 to 2.5 quart (5.5 to 6.5 inch, trade gallon)	6–8 weeks	2–3 ppp

Estimated finish crop time is from transplant of a 288-cell tray and finished at an average daily temperature (ADT) of 66 °F (19 °C).

## Example crop schedule for a 1.0 pint

Weeks From Transplant	Description
1 week	Provide 12–14 hours day length
3 weeks	Spray with B-Nine® WSG at 2,500–5,000 ppm if needed
6 weeks	Ready to ship



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