

## Sterilization Bucket

To help reduce the spread of disease between dahlia plants, it is very important to sterilize your tools between plants. Here is one method that Randy Foith, Midwest Dahlia Conference President, uses.

### Contents:

- 1 Plastic bucket
- 3 Cottage cheese type containers

### Process:

1. Add a 10% Clorox bleach solution to 1 container, this is your first tool dip! This solution is depleted after 6 hours. We suggest that it be renewed before each day in the garden.
2. Add a strong solution of Dawn Dish Soap to another container. This is your second dip or allow tools to sit. This retards any corrosion of the tools! Dawn is also a good way to kill any viral residue.
3. The final container is for you to rest the sterile tools. This container contains drain holes so that any excess fluid can drain off.
4. In the garden, carry the bucket from plant to plant and repeat. Dip!  
Dip!

It is very important to reconstitute the fluids at a minimum after each session in the garden. Go through this procedure before dressing each plant and each new clump of tubers. Isolate each clump when storing for the winter. Clean your tools between each session.

Finally, you will see an improvement in the quality of the plants in your dahlia garden year after year!

