

Timeline for Waking Tubers

These dates assume a May 15 last frost date in our area. However, some find that dahlia growth will stall if the ground is not warmed up (soil temperature should be at least 50 degrees), and it's better to plant your dahlia plants similarly to when you plant your tomato plants.

Dahlias cannot tolerate any frost so should be protected if you plant them and we receive an unexpected late frost. If they get hit with a frost, all foliage will die. The tuber will probably be okay and will regrow; you will just have lost all your efforts to get an early start.

All these dates are approximate. Different varieties will wake up on their own timetable, and you can adjust these dates based on your own schedule too.

If you want to take cuttings:

Take tubers out of storage to wake up	February 14
First shoots ready to cut	March 15 – April 1
Take your last cutting	April 30
First cuttings ready to pot up	April 1 – April 15
Pots with first cuttings ready to harden off	May 1 – May 15

If you want to plant a dahlia plant:

Take tubers out of storage to wake up	March 15
Tubers with shoots ready to pot up	April 15
Plants ready to harden off	May 15

If you want to plant tubers:

Take tubers out of storage and plant outdoors	May 15 – June 1
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(Note: Tubers without above-ground growth can tolerate a light freeze)

If you want start seeds:

Start seeds on wet paper towels	April 1
As soon as they germinate, move to cell tray	April 6 - 15
Seedlings ready to pot up to 4" pot (optional)	April 20 - 30
Seedlings in cell trays or pots ready to harden off	May 5 - 15