

How to Store Dahlia Tubers Course Outline

Introduction

Storage overview

- Overview

- The winter cycle

- What is successful storage?

Typical storage success rates

- What affects storage success rates

 - Your skill as a divider

 - Some tubers were unstable when put into storage

 - Different varieties perform differently

 - The bad apple effect

 - When you do your counting

- So what's a good success rate?

Principles of creating a successful storage environment

- Temperature

- Humidity

- Airflow

- Light

Locations & containers

- Overwintering in nature

- Overwintering artificially

- A house and a bed for your tubers

Storage locations (Macrobiomes)

- What makes a good storage location?

- Common storage locations

- Examples of potentially poor storage locations

- Check temperatures in specific spots, not the location as a whole

- Several methods of monitoring temperature

 - Water method

 - Analog Thermometer

 - Wi-fi thermometers

 - Infrared thermometer gun

- What robotic chicken doors have to teach us about foolproof tuber storage

Modifying your best storage location

- Creating artificially heated storage spaces

 - Spot heating your space

 - Creating "heaters"

Creating a cooled space inside a heated building

The fridge you already own

Use a dedicated fridge, minifridge or wine cooler

Dig a root cellar

Unpowered chest freezer with an ice bucket

AC unit and a Coolbot

No good spot? Store at a friend's place!

Resources

Storage containers and mediums (Microbiomes)

About storage mediums

What do mediums do?

Common storage mediums

How to avoid mediums acting as dessicants

How to tell if medium is too wet or dry

Root development in storage

Peat Moss

Vermiculite

Coconut Coir (Coco Coir)

Wood shavings (sawdust)

Shredded paper

Potting soil

Native soil

Headspace mediums

Storage Containers Overview

Porous storage containers

Sealed containers

Characteristics of a great tuber storage container

Semi-porous containers

How to store multiple varieties in one container

Poor choices for dividers

Effective dividers

Tried and true microbiome setups

Plastic shoeboxes with medium

Ziplock bags with medium

Bag in a box with medium

Plastic wrap with no medium

Sunset View Farm Dahlias' set up

Newsprint Headspace Medium in lined crates

Where to buy supplies

Mitigating the most common kinds of storage failure

What is storage failure?

Winter checks are critical

How to mitigate rot

How to avoid storing bad tubers

How to avoid moisture buildup inside your containers.

Shrivel (dessicated tubers)

Mold and other Fungi

Rodent damage

Frost damage during storage

The spring warming cycle (waking up tubers)

What do tubers need to wake up?

Heat

Light does not trigger wakefulness

Moisture

Waking tubers up early

Why wake up tubers early?

Bringing containers indoors

Greenhouses

Waking up in pots

Ziplock bag-n-rack system

Temporary mass planting for cuttings

14 Bringing heat to your storage location

Sunset View Farm's method

Pay attention to moisture content

How long do tubers take to wake up?

Labeling during storage

Use redundancies to avoid mislabels

Indirect labeling methods (container labels)

Direct labeling methods (marking tubers themselves)

For sellers vs home gardeners

Handwritten methods

Customizable number and letter stamps

Custom variety stamps

Your next steps