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# Dahlias

Pride of the Garden

1918



## J. C. Burns

Dahlia Specialist

San Rafael,

California

## THE DAHLIA.

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The Dahlia is a native of Mexico, and before the invasion of Mexico by Cortez was grown by the Aztecs under the name Acoctli.

It was named Dahlia in honor of Professor Andrew Dahl, a Swedish Botanist, and was first cultivated in Europe about 130 years ago.

Dahlia Variabilis, the forerunner of the common or Show Dahlias, was single in its wild state. The first perfectly double flowers were obtained by M. Dankelaar of the Botanical Gardens of Belgium in 1814, and from this source came the well known double varieties so common in the gardens of the East a half century ago.

Dahlia Juarezi, the original Cactus Dahlia, was named after a former President of Mexico and was discovered in Juxphaor, Mexico, in 1872, by J. T. Vanderberg, and sent by him to an English froist who exhibited it in England in 1882. The graceful form and brilliant color of the flower at once captured the fancy of flower lovers, and today there is no flower more popular.

The progeny of Dahlia Juarezi not only "broke" into various colors, but into different shapes as well. It was by selecting the most desirable of these and reselecting the finest from each succeeding generation of plants, that the Cactus Dahlia has been worked up to its present state of perfection. The contrast between Juarezi and some of its gorgeous descendents, is so great that it almost staggers belief.

The Pompon form appeared about 1858-1860. Next came the decorative type which is about forty years old and most recently the Hybrid Cactus and the peony class which dates back but a few years and are becoming very popular.

Indeed, the marvelous transformation wrought in the wonderful flower in the past 34 years must seem to those unacquainted with the possibilities of plant life more like a tale from Arabian Nights than actual reality.

## CULTURE OF DAHLIAS

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The dahlia is one of the easiest of all flowers to cultivate and will produce more flowers than any other plant grown flowering all summer and fall if the simple cultural directions are followed closely. They can be grown in any good garden soil, but if possible plant in an open sunny situation. Prepare the soil thoroughly by digging 12 to 18 inches deep in the fall, if possible, and again in the spring. Plant any time between April 20th and June 1st, digging holes six inches deep and from three to four feet apart. Then lay in the tuber flat on its side, the size of which makes no difference as long as it has one strong eye or sprout. Cover three inches deep, thus leaving the hole one half full, to be filled after plant comes up 6 to 8 inches above the ground.

As soon as the plant is large enough, cut out the top of it just above the second or third set of leaves, which causes the plant to grow a stout branch at the base of each of the four or six leaves left. Just as soon as the plants are up the most important thing to do is to keep the soil loose and mellow by hoeing or cultivating once or twice a week and just as soon after each rain as the soil will permit. As soon as the buds appear stop all cultivation and give the beds a mulch of rotted manure, leaves, etc. Water the beds and plants thoroughly once or twice a week and especially during the dry weather. Tie each plant to a strong stake so it may have a strong support. To have the greatest success is to keep them growing but as strong and sturdy as possible. Never allow the faded flowers to remain on the plant but cut them off with as much stem

or stalk as you can. To have larger blooms it is necessary to disbud, leaving the center bud and taking off the side ones, leaving a stem approximately eighteen inches long. Dahlias will continue to bloom until a heavy frost kills the tops in late fall, after which the tops are cut off and the roots are dug and stored in a frost proof cellar or basement, covering with dry soil, sand or anything that will keep them from shriveling. Divide in the spring after the eyes begin to show.



## DAHLIA SEED.

Much pleasure can be derived from growing dahlia seeds. Dahlias grow very easily from seed. plant early, then transplant after danger of frost. They will make large plants, the first year. For bedding purposes they may be planted 24 inches apart but for trying out they can be planted very close. As they bloom the unsatisfactory plants may be discarded and more room left for the suitable ones.

Seed artificially fertilized and gathered from the best varieties of Decorative Hybrid Cactus and Paeony dahlias. 50cts pkt. of 25 seeds

## FOREWORD

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I TAKE great pleasure in presenting this catalogue to my customers and friends. I do not list a large collection, but such varieties that have been selected for their superiority in color, perfection of form, length and stiffness of stem, continuous blooming, etc. In the following selection the public taste is well satisfied. I aim to give prompt and careful attention. Prices are for divided field grown roots, pot grown bulbs or green plants. Either kind will give equally good results. Many experienced growers prefer green plants.

TERMS—All orders are delivered prepaid. Large orders are best sent by express.

CASH with order or in advance of shipment.

SPECIAL OFFER—A fine collection of dahlias, my own selection, consisting of the best varieties giving a good variety of color and type.

12 different varieties.....	\$2.50
25 different varieties.....	5.00

I guarantee all roots and plants to be healthy, and true to name. Having no control over them after delivery I do not guarantee them to live and thrive. They should be returned up on delivery if not satisfactory. As I desire to give satisfaction to all who have favored me with an order, notify me immediately of any error.

ORDER EARLY—As orders are received stock will be reserved and sent at the proper time.

I beg to offer sincere thanks to all who have favored me with their kind orders.

SPECIAL OFFER—All orders amounting to \$10.00 or over allowed 10% discount.

## MY 1918 INTRODUCTIONS.

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### MRS. F. C. BURNS

Awarded fourth prize C. D. S. Trial Gardens 1917. A shell pink decorative, very striking, one of the best for all purposes, excellent habits. Very choice. \$2.50 each

### FRANCIS BURNS, Jr.

Awarded third prize C. D. S. Trial Gardens 1917. Light pink shading to white in center; this variety is exceptional prolific good stems, flowers medium size. The coming dahlia. \$2.50 each

### SAN RAFAEL

An unique paeony dahlia salmon pink shading to yellow, same coloring as Beauty of Glasewood or San Rafael rose, good stems and keeping qualities. Something different. \$2.50 each

### MT. TAMALPAIS

Dark red paeony. One of the largest dahlias to date; taking the first prize for the largest dahlia in the show C. D. S. 1917, flowers 11 inches across, very prolific and good stems. \$2.50 each

### EUGENE BURGLE

One of my best 1918 introductions, a red decorative very prolific and fine for cut flowers, an improved seedlings from the famous Minnie Burtle which I introduced in 1911. \$2.50 each

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For new varieties plant from seed.





### THE GRIZZLY

A dark maroon red decorative; without a doubt this is one of the best and most prolific dahlias to date. Stems 3 feet long; plants grow 3 or 4 feet in diameter, flowers are extra large and reflexed which makes it attractive. The name was selected by the public at the Palace and St. Francis dahlia shows 1917. Awarded fifth prize C. D. S. Trial Gardens 1917. One of my best. A rare novelty.  
\$5.00 each

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All Dahlias guaranteed true to name.

## HORTALANUS FEIT

Salmon pink decorative, beautifully shaded with yellow in center making a wonderful combination. Large flowers on long stout stems. 50cts. each

## OLD GOLD

Decorative. A wonderful new variety of old gold color with very little shading, prolific bloomer. Something different. \$1.00 each

## GEISHA

Paeony flowering type of a rich color with shading of orange red tipped with yellow. Sure bloomer and fine for cutting. 35cts. each

## MASTERPIECE

Decorative. A splendid flower, color clear rich tango without shading. Unexcelled for its productiveness, flowers held on long stiff and straight stems. Fine for cut flowers purposes. 35cts. each

## TANGO

Large paeony type of wonderful coloring consisting of bronze and salmon. Fine stem and a prolific bloomer. Splendid as a cut flower. A California production. 50cts. each

## POMPON DAHLIAS

These produce small compact flowers perfectly formed, reminding one of a miniature show dahlia. Very attractive. Unequalled for cutting and garden display. 25cts. each. 12 different varieties \$2.50

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**Water thoroughly in dry season.**



### **MRS. R. LOHRMANN**

Decorative. A pure golden yellow of immense size, full center with broad slightly twisted petals, very productive and a good keeper. \$1.00 each

### **DR. H. TEVIS**

First prize C. D. S. Trial Garden. A Decorative of enormous size flowers measure 9 to 11 inches in diameter held erect on long stiff stems, a pretty shade of salmon rose, suffused with old gold. A rare novelty. \$2.50 each net

### **STAR OF WASHINGTON**

A very attractive paeony shell pink shading to cream in center. This dahlia received honors at the C. D. S. Trial Gardens for the most prolific dahlia exhibited. Good stems. \$1.00 each

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Read culture notes page 3 and 4.

## PRIDE OF CALIFORNIA

A large red decorative that cannot be beaten; very large flowers, held on extra good stems, very prolific and an exceptionally good keeper. Fine for garden and exhibition. Awarded second prize C. D. S. Gardens 1917. \$2.50 each

## SUNSHINE

A bright flame red decorative, a color very seldom seen in dahlias, slightly flushed with yellow; flowers are very deep, held on good stems. Another Californian that is becoming very popular. \$1.50 each

## OXMOUTH GLORY

A very pretty paeony dahlia canary yellow tipped white; it likes partial shade, exceptionally prolific fine for garden or exhibition purposes; very attractive. \$1.00 each

## PACIFIC

A beautiful decorative dahlia with a combination of light pink and yellow. Excellent as cut flowers and a splendid keeper. Large flowers. Very good. 50cts.

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Disbudding increases the size of the flowers.



### **HENRY MAIER**

A California production. True yellow decorative, very often called yellow Minnie Burgle. Profuse bloomer throwing flowers on long stiff stems. A prize winner. 75cts. each

### **MRS. T. A. MUNRO**

A giant cactus dahlia that I can highly recommend; color, amber shading to old gold; blooms measure 9 to 10 inches across. It has a perfect stem which most cactus dahlias lack, holding the flowers erect above the foliage. \$1.00 each

### **CREAM KING**

One of the most beautiful new paeony dahlias. A pretty shade of cream and primrose. A good sized flower with splendid formation blooming throughout the season. 75cts.

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All orders prepaid to any part of U. S.



### **TOM LUNDY**

One of the largest hybrid cactus grown. Of bright velvet red held on good stems and a very prolific bloomer. One of our most sensational novelties. Awarded a first prize P.-P. I. E. 1915. \$1.00 each

### **CHARMINSTER**

A true decorative of salmon terra cotta. An unusual shade among dahlias. This is a very attractive flower. A prolific bloomer with long graceful stems. 75cts. each

### **YELLOW KING**

Hybrid Cactus. Clear yellow, extra large and a prolific bloomer. Yellow King surpasses any other variety of its type and color. Very choice. 75cts.

### **F. W. FELLOWS**

One of the largest cactus dahlias. A very free bloomer with an excellent stem; color is pure orange which makes it very attractive and novel. 50cts. each

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My aim is to give satisfaction.



### **ALASKA**

White decorative of great merit. This is one of our own introductions. A good bloomer, flowers of a good size and held on long straight stems. 75cts. each

### **LADY LAVENDER**

Decorative. The best lavender to date; some thing unusual; very free with fine stems; likes cool climate. \$1.00 each

### **FUTURITY**

A wonderful new English decorative. Flowers stand erect on long stiff stems. A beautiful shade of shrimp pink and old rose. Very pleasing. 75cts. each

### **GENERAL JOFFRE**

A wonderful new decorative, a most pleasing pink shading in the center to nearly white. Flowers held erect on good stems. General Joffre is fast becoming the popular cut flower. 75cts. each

Plant dahlias from seed. See page 4.

## PIERROTT

Cactus amber tipped white, very striking, and with very prolific growth. One of the best.  
50cts. each

## MINNIE BURGLE

The best red decorative. A California production of wonderful merit. We were the first to introduced this grand variety.  
25cts. each

## DELICE

A most beautiful rose pink, decorative, perfectly formed and one of the best varieties known for keeping.  
25cts. each

## WODAN

Hybrid Cactus beautifully shaded salmon rose to old gold in center and a very vigorous grower. Flowers beautifully formed.  
35cts. each

## AMERICA

A very fine decorative dahlia with a rich amber color. Flowers are of a fair size, a prolific bloomer and splendid as a cut flower, very popular.  
25cts. each

## BELOIT

A large Hybrid Cactus, the rich crimson flowers are well formed and stand erect above the plant. A prolific bloomer and splendid as a cut flower.  
35cts. each

## COPPER

Large copper colored decorative, very prolific grower with good stems.  
\$1.00 each

## SULPHUREA

One of the latest English decorative novelties. Large clear sulphur-yellow petals are narrow slightly rolled and reflexed giving the appearance of a comet aster. Good keeper.  
\$1.00 each

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Dahlia novelties my specialty.





### **GEO. WALTERS**

One of the most beautiful hybrid cactus type. Bright salmon pink artistically suffused with old gold. A wonderful bearer. The flowers are large and held on long stiff stems. Geo. Walters received the gold medal at the P.-P. I. E., San Francisco, 1915. \$1.00 each

### **MILLIONAIRE**

A giant lavender pink, decorative, one of the largest, very prolific and fine for exhibition purposes. Taking first prize for the best individual bloom in the show C. D. S. 1917. \$2.50 each

### **MRS. ALBERTA LEMME**

Velvet red decorative. Very fine habit, flowers large but graceful, held high above the foliage and is admired by all. A California production with a great future. 75cts. each

