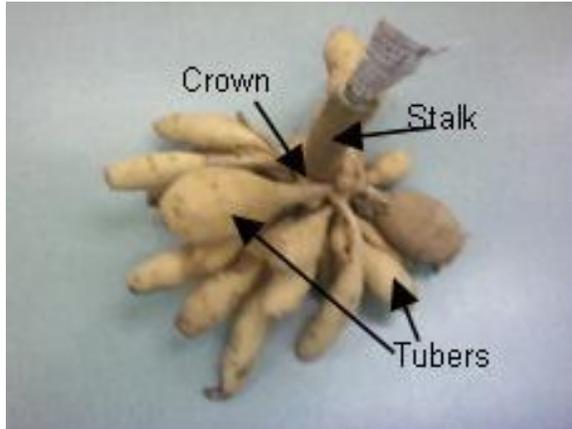


Digging and Storing Dahlias

There are dozens of ways to do this...here is a simple way that works for us.



1. After the killing frost (the plants are now black) cut the plants down to about 6" high.
2. Let plants remain where they are for about 1 week.
3. Dig carefully. Start digging about a foot away from the stalk with a shovel or pitch fork.
4. Rinse clumps gently with water if possible. Let dry for a couple of days.
5. Remove any clods of dirt (if you didn't rinse) and clip off the small hairy roots at the tips of the tubers and any small or damaged tubers.
6. Cut the stalk back to about 1 inch but don't damage the crown which is where the tubers meet the stem.
7. Cut stalk in half or thirds and gently pull apart. You will be separating the tubers into 2 or 3 groups.
8. Put each section in a plastic grocery bag with a name tag if desired/available and about 2 cups of vermiculite. Fold over bag (do not seal tightly), label with name and stack in a storage tub.
8. Store in a cool dry place. 45 to 50 degrees is ideal. DO NOT let them freeze. Keep away from mice.
9. Check the tubers once or twice during the winter. If they are starting to shrivel, mist very lightly. If they are rotting...throw rotted tubers out to protect the other tubers from contamination.
9. In the spring, cut the tubers apart. Each tuber needs a piece of stalk/crown still attached. Look for "eyes" (like on potatoes). Only tubers with "eyes" will give you a plant.
10. If you can't see the eyes, leave the tubers in a lighted, warm place and spritz with water to encourage the eyes to pop out.

Good Growing!