

Botanical Name: Dahlia merckii

Common Name: Bedding dahlia

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Character deciduous tuber

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape bushy upright perennial/tuberous rooted plant with dense foliage and upright flower stems; widely varied color combinations

Height 1-3' Spread 1-3' Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoor full sun to partial shade

Soil prefers a loose, well-drained soil

Hardiness hardy, all zones

Morphology:

Leaves pinnately compound; leaves 12" long; leaflets elliptical dark green, to 3" long

Flowers head to 2" across; usually full, almost globular, 2-10 on each peduncle; purple, yellow, orange, red, white, etc.

Fruit small, ovate achenes

Propagation: seed, division

Usage: medium to large bedding plant for filler or facer; good in perennial borders, raised beds and containers; often used in cottage gardens

Landscape Care:

Watering likes regular watering during growing season

Fertilizing slow-release fertilizer at planting time; yearly low N

Pruning cut back foliage in winter after yellowing and die-back

Pests/Diseases powdery mildew, corn borer

Special Conditions can be lifted and divided in winter if desired

Origin: Mexico-Columbia Family: Asteraceae