

Dear Dahlia Friends,

Just wanted to drop a note to all and let you know that we are not completely out of the dahlia business and indeed will be selling limited stock for the 2010 growing season. 2009 was indeed a hard growing season with lots of rain early in the spring and way, way, way too much rain from the middle of September through digging season. The digging season began without the preamble of frosty nights but instead came with extremely cold nights and hard freezes. Our listing will be approximately 50% of last year and is now posted in case you need any last minute replacements.

We are offering 2 new Hilltop introductions for the 2010 growing season along with 2 varieties from Mr. Stan Hart & 1 variety from Mr. Eugene Boeke. Hilltop Digger, an interesting red and bronze single, had 5 trial garden scores last season and should do very well at the shows. It grows to a full size plant and produces an abundance of quality blooms. Hilltop Sunfire is our other variety for this season. A small incurved cactus with a flame blend coloring. This is a pretty bloom that has won ribbons at the shows and did bench score in the 2008 season. Hart's Dr McMurray is a giant informal decorative orange that has been winning for the past couple of years on the show bench and is the AA Medal winner. Hart's Lora Ann is a small formal dark red that should do well at the shows with a little shading. Mr. Boeke will be adding Bo-Pub (a small purple formal decorative) to his line of intros this season. This variety will be a ball formation for some and the color will change to a blend later in the season as the temps begin to cool off. I expect to see several of this variety at the National in Chattanooga this September.

Hilltop Gardens is a small family business that strives for quality. All roots will be shipped with at least one live eye and will be virus free. Our plants are shipped garden ready, however we have brief recommendations later in the catalog to enhance your success with your newly arriving plants. Our stock is guaranteed 100% but adverse conditions and adverse garden practices can not be covered by us. If you have a problem with your order please contact us as soon as possible before the end of the purchase season for replacement or refund.

We are delighted to announce that the new trial garden (Great Smoky Mountain Trial Garden) in Cashiers, NC is now a sanctioned trial garden and looking forward to many years serving the dahlia community. The garden was a huge success again this past season with hundreds of visitors throughout the growing season. Our judging seminar was held at the garden in late August and was attended by many judges from throughout the southern states who I would like to thank along with the Village Green conservancy for providing such a beautiful location and their support. Again we will be working hand in hand with the Carolinas Society as well as the local community to ensure the success of this important program. We invite everyone to come see the trial garden as well as Hilltop Gardens. A Call ahead will ensure someone is available to show you around.

Please supply your extra roots to the children around you. And lend them a hand on learning how to grow them. Good luck in the 2010 growing season and enjoy all of the shows that you attend. See you at the National in Chattanooga in August.

Good Growing, Good Dahlias & Good Friends!

Buddy Dean & Family  
Hilltop Gardens, Inc.  
Cashiers, NC  
(828) 421-9458

**Codes used in our listings for Size, Type/Form & Color**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Bloom Size</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Type/Form</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Color</b>
<b>AA</b>	(Giant), over 10 inches in diameter.	<b>AN</b>	Anemone-flowered	<b>BI</b>	Bicolor
<b>A</b>	(Large), over 8 to 10 inches in diameter.	<b>BA</b>	Ball	<b>BR</b>	Bronze
<b>B</b>	(Medium), over 6 to 8 inches in diameter.	<b>C</b>	Straight Cactus	<b>DB</b>	Dark Blend
<b>BB</b>	(Small), over 4 to 6 inches in diameter.	<b>CO</b>	Collarette	<b>DP</b>	Dark Pink
<b>M</b>	(Miniature), up to 4 inches in diameter.	<b>FD</b>	Formal Decorative	<b>DR</b>	Dark Red
<b>BA</b>	(Ball), over 3.5 inches in diameter.	<b>IC</b>	Incurved Cactus	<b>FL</b>	Flame Blend
<b>MB</b>	(Miniature Ball), over 2 to 3.5 in. in dia.	<b>ID</b>	Informal Decorative	<b>L</b>	Lavender
<b>P</b>	(Pompon), up to 2 inches in diameter.	<b>LC</b>	Laciniated	<b>LB</b>	Light Blend
<b>MS</b>	(Mignon Single) up to 2 inches in diameter	<b>MB</b>	Miniature Ball	<b>OR</b>	Orange
<b>S</b>	(Single) over 2 inches in diameter	<b>MS</b>	Mignon Single	<b>PK</b>	Pink
		<b>NO</b>	Novelty Open Center	<b>PR</b>	Purple
		<b>NX</b>	Novelty Double Center	<b>R</b>	Red
		<b>O</b>	Orchid-flowering	<b>V</b>	Variegated
		<b>P</b>	Pompon	<b>W</b>	White
		<b>PE</b>	Peony-flowering	<b>Y</b>	Yellow
		<b>S</b>	Single		
		<b>SC</b>	Semi-Cactus		
		<b>ST</b>	Stellar		
		<b>WL</b>	Water Lily		

**Giants/ AA's  
10"12" Diameter**

<b>Dahlia Name</b>	<b>Size/Form/Color</b>	<b>Plant</b>	<b>Tuber</b>	<b>Price</b>
Alfred C	AA SC Or	*	*	\$6.00
Barb Hardisty Cantor	AA LC LB Wh/Lv	*	*	\$8.00
Barbara B	AA ID DP	*	X	\$5.00
Belle of Barmera	AA ID DP	*	*	\$6.00
Ben Huston	AA ID Br	*	*	\$6.00
Big Boy	AA ID Fl	*	*	\$5.00
Clara Huston	AA IC Or	*	X	\$6.00
Clyde's Choice	AA FD Or	*	X	\$6.00
Emory Paul	AA ID Pr	*	X	\$6.00
Hart's Dr McMurray	AA ID Or	*	*	\$15.00
Inland Dynasty	AA SC Y	*	*	\$7.00
Ivory Palaces	AA ID Y	*	*	\$6.00
Kenora Clyde	AA SC W	*	X	\$6.00
Penhill Dark Monarch	AA ID DB Pr.Y	*	X	\$7.00
Penhill Watermelon	AA ID PK/W	*	*	\$7.00

**Large/A's  
8" Diameter**

<b>Dahlia Name</b>	<b>Size/Form/Color</b>	<b>Plant</b>	<b>Tuber</b>	<b>Price</b>
Almond Joy	A ID LB Lv/W	*	*	\$6.00
Amhurst Regina	A SC Y	*	*	\$9.00
Dixie Winedot	A ID VW/Pr	*	*	\$6.00
Elma Elizabeth	A FD Lv	*	X	\$6.00
Elsie Huston	A ID DP	*	*	\$6.00
Gitt's Perfection	A ID LB Lv/W	*	*	\$7.00
Hollyhill Electra	A IC Or	*	*	\$7.00
Hy Debut	A C W	*	X	\$8.00
Hy Mom	A IC W	*	X	\$6.00
Islander	A ID DP	*	*	\$6.00
Jess	A C Or	*	X	\$7.00
Kenora Jubilee	A SC W	*	*	\$7.00
Kenora Superb	A SC LB Or/Y	*	X	\$6.00
Kenora Wildfire	A SC R	*	*	\$6.00
Show-n-Tell	A LC DB R/Y	*	*	\$6.00
Spartacus	A ID DR	*	*	\$6.00
Verda	A SC W	*	*	\$6.00
Wyn's Aztec Gold	A SC Or	*	X	\$6.00
Wyn's Highlighter	A ID Y	*	X	\$7.00

**Medium/B's  
6" Diameter**

<b>Dahlia Name</b>	<b>Size/Form/Color</b>	<b>Plant</b>	<b>Tuber</b>	<b>Price</b>
Amy K.	B SC LB Pk/W	*	X	\$ 6.00
April Dawn	B ID LB Wh/Pk	*	*	\$ 7.00
Barbarossa	B FD R	*	*	\$ 5.00
Bargaly Blush	B FD DP	*	X	\$ 7.00
Beverly Too	B ID Y	*	X	\$ 6.00
Blown Dry	B ID LB Pk/Y	*	*	\$ 6.00
Bo-Bay	B SC LB Y/L	*	X	\$ 6.00
Bode	B IC L	*	*	\$ 7.00
Bo-Kay	B SC LB Y/Br	*	*	\$10.00
Camano Sitka	B IC LB Br/Y	*	*	\$ 7.00
CG Nordic	B IC W	*	X	\$ 7.00
Edna C	B FD Y	*	*	\$ 6.00
Ferncliff Sunset	B ID Or	*	X	\$ 6.00
Hamari Accord	B SC Y	*	*	\$ 6.00
Jennie	B LC LB Pk/W	*	X	\$ 6.00
Juanita	B C DR	*	*	\$ 6.00
Lady Darlene	B FD DB R/Y	*	X	\$ 6.00
Magic Moment	B SC W	*	*	\$ 6.00
Mingus Laura	B IC R	*	*	\$ 6.00
Mrs. Eilleen	B FD Or	*	X	\$ 6.00
Nenekazi	B LC LB DP/Y	*	*	\$ 6.00
Summer Rain	B ID Br	*	*	\$ 6.00

**Small/BB's  
4" Diameter**

<b>Dahlia Name</b>	<b>Size/Form/Color</b>	<b>Plant</b>	<b>Tuber</b>	<b>Price</b>
Allie White	BB ID W	*	*	\$ 6.00
Apricot Brandy	BB C Or	*	X	\$ 5.00
Bo-De-O	BB ID Y	*	X	\$ 6.00
Bo-Joy	BB LC Y	*	*	\$ 8.00
Bo-Pub	BB FD Pr	*	*	\$10.00
Camano Susan	BB SC Or	*	X	\$ 7.00
CG Coral	BB C DP	*	X	\$ 6.00
Embrace	BB SC Y	*	*	\$ 7.00
Ferncliff Lemon Aura	BB C Y	*	X	\$ 7.00
Hamilton Lillian	BB FD Or	*	*	\$ 6.00
Hannah Baker	BB LC DB DP/Y	*	X	\$ 6.00
Hart's Lora Ann	BB FD DR	*	*	\$12.00
Hillcrest Kismet	BB FD LB Pk/L	*	X	\$ 6.00
Hilltop Glo	BB FD LB Pk/W	*	X	\$10.00
Hilltop Sunfire	BB IC FI R/Y	*	*	\$10.00
Jessica	BB IC BI Y/R	*	*	\$ 7.00
Jomanda	BB FD Or	*	*	\$ 6.00

**Miniatures  
Up to 4" Diameter**

<b>Dahlia Name</b>	<b>Size/Form/Color</b>	<b>Plant</b>	<b>Tuber</b>	<b>Price</b>
Aitara Caress	M SC LB Pk/W	*	*	\$ 6.00
Badger Twinkle	M SC DB Pr/W	*	*	\$ 7.00
Bo-Zoe	M FD Lv	*	*	\$ 5.00
Brookside J. Cooley	M ID Y	*	X	\$ 6.00
Elizabeth Hammett	M FD Lv	*	X	\$ 5.00
Hilltop Onyx	M FD DR	*	*	\$10.00
Hotshot	M SC Or	*	X	\$ 8.00
Nicole C	M C Or	*	*	\$ 5.00

**Balls/Miniature Balls/Pompons**

<b>Dahlia Name</b>	<b>Size/Form/Color</b>	<b>Plant</b>	<b>Tuber</b>	<b>Price</b>
<i>Ball Form</i>				
Greendor	BA V Y/R	*	*	\$6.00
Hilltop Ivan	BA Pr	*	*	\$8.00
Ken's Choice	BA DR	*	*	\$6.00
Mary's Jomanda	BA DP	*	*	\$7.00
Snoho Doris	BA DB R/Br	*	*	\$6.00
<i>Miniature Ball</i>				
Hilltop Whiteside	MB W	*	*	\$7.00
<i>Pompon</i>				
Aurwen's Violet	P Pr	*	*	\$5.00
Irish Miss	P DB Pr/W	*	*	\$5.00
Moor Place	P Pr	*	*	\$5.00
Poppet	P Or	*	X	\$6.00

**Stellar Form**

<b>Dahlia Name</b>	<b>Size/Form/Color</b>	<b>Plant</b>	<b>Tuber</b>	<b>Price</b>
Barbershop	ST BI R/Wh	*	X	\$6.00
Camano Pet	ST LB Y/Or	*	*	\$7.00
Hilltop Stella	ST BI R/Wh	*	*	\$10.00
Primrose Pet	ST Y	*	*	\$6.00

**Waterlilly Form**

<b>Dahlia Name</b>	<b>Size/Form/Color</b>	<b>Plant</b>	<b>Tuber</b>	<b>Price</b>
Bracken Lorelei	WL LB Y/Pk	*	*	\$6.00
Cameo	WL Y	*	*	\$6.00
Canoz Anne	WL DB R/Y	*	X	\$7.00
Pam Howden	WL LB Y/Or/DP	*	X	\$7.00
Wildwood Marie	WL DP	*	*	\$6.00

## Other Types

<b>Dahlia Name</b>	<b>Size/Form/Color</b>	<b>Plant</b>	<b>Tuber</b>	<b>Price</b>
<i>Peony - Flowering</i>				
Bishop of Llandaff	PE DR	*	*	\$6.00
Japanese Bishop	PE R	*	X	\$5.00
Longwood Dainty	PE Or	*	*	\$4.00
<i>Anemone - Flowering</i>				
Alpen Fury	AN R R/fl/y/r	*	X	\$5.00
<i>Collarette</i>				
Alpen Cherub	CO W Wh/wh	*	*	\$5.00
Alpen Diamond	CO LB Lv/Wh/wh	*	X	\$5.00
<i>Single</i>				
Alba Purity	S W	*	*	\$7.00
Hilltop Digger	S DB Rd/Br	*	*	\$12.00
Hilltop Tigger	S R	*	X	\$7.00
Hilltop Zoe	S R	*	X	\$5.00
<i>Mignon Single</i>				
Alpen Sara	MS V Wh/DR/y	*	*	\$5.00
Daisy	MS DP	*	*	\$4.00
Inflamation	MS Or	*	*	\$5.00
Nippon	MS Y	*	*	\$4.00
Rembrant	MS DR	*	*	\$6.00
Scura	MS R	*	*	\$5.00
<i>Orchid-Flowering</i>				
Alpen Sami	O DR/lb/w/dr	*	*	\$5.00
Honka	O Y	*	*	\$5.00
<i>Novelty Double</i>				
Akita	NX DB DR/Y	*	*	\$6.00
Valley Porcupine	NX LB Pk/W	*	*	\$6.00

## 2010 Ordering Information

- All orders will be filled as they are received. In case of an availability shortage you will be notified prior to shipping by email or by phone. So please supply this information when you place your order.
- At this time we are only able to ship to the continental U.S. Sorry for any inconveniences.
- Please enclose a check or money order with your request. PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH. Make checks payable to Hilltop Gardens, Inc.
- We will ship every Monday or Tuesday by USPS Priority Mail. Plants will not be shipped before the 1<sup>st</sup> of March unless special arrangement have been made.\*\*We will not ship if weather conditions are not favorable on both ends for safe delivery. Shipping and handling on all orders will be as follows:

1-5 roots	\$ 9.00
6-10 roots	\$10.00
11-20 roots	\$11.00
21 or more	\$12.00

- All orders shipped within North Carolina will be subject to 6.75% sales tax.
- S.O. Sold out for 2009 (Sorry)  
X Not available (Sorry)  
\* Available

All cuttings are rooted in oasis wedges.

You will receive plants that are garden ready with instructions enclosed.

## Plants Versus Tubers

The Dahlia plants offered in this catalog are actually cuttings taken from sprouted tubers. The cutting is then rooted in oasis growing medium under grow lights until roots form. You will notice a full root system and in many instances the first indication of tubers beginning to form. A cutting will produce a full tuber system just as a plant grown from a spring planted tuber itself.

When the plants arrive they will need to be transplanted into well draining sterile soil mixture and placed in a windowsill or place of lighting for best results. The soil should be kept moist so that the root system will spread. We prefer four inch pots so that the root system has a chance to spread to the edges of the pot prior to planting in the garden. Your young plants can also be left in the black plastic sleeve for a couple of days as long as they get adequate water if you have no time to transplant them. Plants should not be placed directly into the garden as they will need to be “hardened” off. This can be done by taking the pots or sleeves outside for a small amount of time each day increasing the time each day. This will acclimatize the plants to the environment in which they will be growing. The plants should be planted in the garden on a cool or overcast day after all danger of frost has passed and not allowed to dry out for the first few days. By following these simple instructions you will greatly enhance the success of your new plants.

Plants provide the Dahlia enthusiast with the opportunity to get a head start on the growing season as they can be grown to a decent size before transferring out to the garden site. The average tuber takes approximately two to three weeks before waking up and breaking ground. Cuttings are ideal for those in colder regions and those with excessive spring rain storms. Many times a tuber will not survive if the soil does not drain well or the soil is too cold when initially planted out but a cutting with an established root system will be able to absorb some excess water and endure cooler soil temperatures when placed in the garden. Obviously anything can rot in too harsh of a growing environment particularly excessive moisture.

While providing an “instant gratification” of your investment, cuttings do require more care and attention initially. When digging tubers started from cuttings we would recommend the removal of the oasis material from the tuber mass prior to storage as there is a tendency for this material to hold moisture and start the process of crown rot.

Approximately 25% of the cutting that we make during a spring season will spend their entire life confined within a pot. This is known as a pot root and will be used the following season for cutting production allowing for rapid build up of stocks that are in short supply. But propagation is closely monitored to retain the vitality of the stock and overproduction is avoided at all cost even if we have to make it unavailable for the remainder of the season. We are sorry if this rare instance happens to you but retaining and selling the highest quality product is our top priority.

We have found that all dahlias do not respond the same when taken from a cutting. Some varieties will produce better blooms from cuttings than they will from a tuber while others are just the opposite. Through trial and error we have decided which ones we will offer in which forms.

We prefer to grow most of our dahlias from cuttings due to our growing season. We are able to plant later, top earlier and still have a strong growing plant & root system when the heat of the summer takes hold of the south. However there are a few varieties that we only grow and supply in tuber form.

Try a few plants for this season and see if your results might be better than with your tubers. You might be surprised.

Happy Gardening  
Buddy

