

# The Happy Days Dahlia Collection

## **Background Information**

This series was new for 2011-2012. It is somewhat similar to the Happy Single Series in that it is bronze leaf with anemone type flowers. The Happy Days series finishes more evenly and is generally the finish height of the Gallery Dahlia Series. Many growers use the Gallery and Happy Days together for a 6" / 1 gallon program. Both series also complement each other for Mothers' Day sales in finishing 8" to 10" pots with 2 or 3 cuttings per pot. The Happy Days Series flowers heavy and continuously.

## **Order Information – Bosgraaf Greenhouse, Inc. 2012-2013**

**'Happy Days' dahlias are available as a rooted 72 cell pac liner or as an unrooted cutting. The finish time is about 7-8 weeks from pinching.**

Minimum order: 4 trays of 72 or 288 total plants. (8 trays of 576 total plants = 1 full box.)  
Box size: 21" X 21" X 21" – holds 8 individually boxed trays. Winter and summer packed.  
Box weight: 30-35 lb (6-8 trays)  
Availability: November 5, 2012 – June 10, 2013  
Lead time: 8 weeks – Late orders Dec.-May subject to availability of cuttings  
Shipped: FOB Hudsonville, Michigan  
Care Tags: Included in price – 1 tag per cutting  
Royalty: Included in Price

## **Soil**

Use a well drained, sterilized planting medium, PH 6.5 – 7. The medium should not contain bark.

## **Planting: Fungicide drench**

1. Pinch cuttings when potting, leaving 2 sets of leaves. Generally a single pinch produces 3-4 breaks and a good finished plant. A second pinch may be necessary.
2. Dibble rooted cuttings into pre-watered pots and bury 1 set of leaves to firm up the plant.
3. A fungicide drench is always a good preventative, especially for pythium.

4. <u>Container size</u>	<u># of cuttings</u>	<u>finish time</u>
6" or 1 gallon	1	7-9 weeks
8"-8.5"	2 or 1 with a double pinch	7-9 weeks
10"-12"	3	7-9 weeks

## **Fertilization & Watering**

1. Dahlias require that the planting medium stays moist, but not wet.
2. Week 1-5 the E.C. can be maintained for around 0.6. The next four weeks can be slightly higher.
3. Osmocote 14-14-14 can be incorporated into the soil at a rate of 4-6 pounds per cubic yard.
4. Constant liquid feed can be used at 175-200 ppm of 20-10-20, alternating with 15-0-15.
5. A combination feed of using a multi-headed injector with 20-10-20, 15-0-15 and 20-35 ppm magnesium.
6. Potassium nitrate can be used to build stocky stems at 200 ppm.

## **Temperature – Humidity**

1. Ideal growing temperatures range from 67-70 degrees during the day and 65-70 degrees at night.

2. Temperatures above 80 degrees can delay flowering – shading may be necessary.
3. Humidity levels range from 60% to a high of 85%.

### **Light Conditions**

1. Grow Dahlias with a maximum amount of available light with a minimum of 2000 footcandles.
2. If low light conditions persist, 400 footcandles of HID lighting can be added.

### **Flowering – Photo Period Requirements**

1. Long days are needed for quality Dahlia vegetative growth and timely bud development.
2. A 14 hour day is required to keep Dahlias vegetative. Use mum lighting.

### **Spacing Requirements**

Spacing allows more air movement and helps prevent fungal and stretching problems.

### **Pest & Disease Prevention**

1. Thrip, mite, aphid and whitefly are potential pests.
2. Effective control can be used using Marathon, Avid, Maverik, Thiodan, Talstar, Orthene, Tame, and Decathlan, Duraguard.
3. Use of Dursaban and Vydate can cause leaf burn.
4. A fungicide spray in combination with an insecticide spray is recommended (Zyban, Heritage, and Compass ).

### **Use of Growth Regulators for Height Control**

1. The grower should evaluate growth at 2 – 3 weeks after pinching. Warmer weather will be a factor in the amount of growth the plant is making.
2. Use 15 – 30 ppm of Bonzi can be used as a spray when needed.
3. Height control is similar to Gallery Dahlia.

### **Tips for Growing Dahlias – 2013**

1. All dahlias need 14 hours of day length to grow and stay vegetative.
  - Growers must extend the day with mum lighting to 14 hours.
  - Failure to do so causes dahlias to form tubers, flower profusely and shut down growth and become dormant.
  - Bury 1 set of leaves which helps firm up the plant as it grows.
2. Low temperatures can cause dahlias to grow very little if at all.
  - Day and night temperatures of 65 F. keeps dahlias growing. We use 68 F. as the bench mark to keep roots moving and vegetation forming.
  - Initial temperatures are key to plant growth and development.
  - Low temperatures can also cause roots to remain wet and contribute to root rot and other fungal diseases.
3. Using a fungicide drench as a preventive.
  - November - February plantings (and later) of dahlia must consider a fungicide at planting or within 5 to 7 days.
4. Combating powdery mildew and botrytis.
  - Powdery mildew and botrytis need to be considered even when recommended temperatures and conditions are followed.
  - Changes in the amount of light or swings in daytime temperatures can contribute to conditions causing

fungal and mildew problems ( humidity, temperature and light levels ).

- Use a fungicide spray with an insecticide spray to help with prevention.

5. Feed moderately = 100 ppm of 20-10-20, 75 ppm of 15-0-15, 25 ppm mag. (200 ppm)

6. Height control: most growers are using Bonzi as a spray or drench. Every series is different – see detail for each series.

7. Summary: good growing means evaluating plants & conditions daily.

**Variety:**

**Name – color – flowersize – height**

1. Happy Days Lemon – lemon – 3" – 10"
2. Happy Days Red – red – 3" – 12"
3. Happy Days Pink – pink – 3" – 10"
4. Happy Days Purple – purple – 3" – 12"
5. Happy Days White - white - 3" - 12"