

The Karma Cut Flower Dahlia

Order Information – Bosgraaf Greenhouse, Inc. 2012-2013

Karma dahlias are available as a 72 cell liner or as an unrooted cutting.

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.
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
Royalty:	Included in the price on each stem cut for 1 season.

Soil

The soil must not be too rich or organic based. A heavy or clay based soil is not recommended.

Planting & Pinching

1. Plant January 1 through March 31 in a heated greenhouse, or outside after danger of frost has passed.
2. After planting, pinch and leave 3-4 sets of leaves which will give 4-6 breaks.
3. Plant 9 plants per 1 square meter, staggering 3 X 3 X 3.
4. Dahlia beds should be approximately 3 feet wide with an 18" walkway between beds.
5. Many growers use netting for plant support and a fence for a wind-break.
6. Drip irrigation can be used very effectively.

Growing and Harvesting Suggestions

1. Many growers stagger initial pinching to give a continual harvest.
2. Stems can be harvested 7-9 weeks after pinch. Always cut just above the node.
3. Stem length can vary from 12" – 20".
4. The stem can be cut when the flower shows color and is halfway (or less) open.
5. Stems must be put in water with a post harvest additive. This treatment delays leaf yellowing in the vase and allows for better keeping quality.
6. Cut flowers should be stored at a post harvest temperature of 40-42 degrees F.

Stem Production

1. Greenhouse: a minimum of 160 stems can be harvested per square meter.
2. Cool house: about 110-140 stems per square meter can be harvested.
3. Outside: approximately 80-100 stems per square meter.
4. Stock plants gradually lose production numbers and should be replaced with new tissue cultured cuttings.

Fertilization and Watering

1. As the plant grows and adds foliage, water more frequently.
2. A balanced fertilizer seems to be a good approach: 15-15-15 or 20-20-20 (150-200 ppm).
3. The pH of the soil is best maintained at about 6.5. Please no bark.

Pest & Disease Prevention

1. Thrip, whitefly and aphid can be controlled with Avid, Talstar, Safari, Orthene and Tame.
2. Pythium root rot – watch overwatering and drainage.
3. Botrytis and powdery mildew – Zyban, Strike, Heritage and Compass.

Light Levels and Photoperiod

1. Grow Karma with higher light levels at cooler times of the year. Some shading is required for inside during higher light periods.
2. **Dahlias require 14 hours of daylight for vegetative growth. Extend with mum lighting.**

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 culture for each series.
7. Summary: good growing means evaluating plants & conditions daily.

Variety: Name – color

1. Amanda – rose with cream petal base
2. BonBini – red tips with yellow center
3. Choc - burgundy-black
4. Corona – golden apricot
5. Corona pink – bright pink
6. Corona red – bright red
7. Fiesta – brite orange with yellow base
8. Irene – brilliant orange-red
9. Lagoon – amethyst blue
10. Maarten de Zwaan - white

11. Naomi – dark red
12. Prospero – bi-color pink
13. Royal - dark red
14. Sangria – pink with yellow petal base
15. Serena - white
16. Thalia - fuchsia
17. Ventura – yellow
18. Ying Yang – bi-color red/white - *not available for 2012 - 2013 season*
19. Goldie - golden yellow
20. Neon Rose - dark rose
21. Fox Red - (ball type) - *some availability for 2012 - 2013 season*
22. Fox Orange - (ball type) - *some availability for 2012 - 2013 season*
23. Fox Maroon - (ball type) - *some availability for 2012 - 2013 season*