

## The Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia Quarterly Newsletter – Oct 05



Summer? We could say, what a summer! Or, we could say, what summer? It all depends on your point of view. It started late for us here on the Eastern Shore as it was cold right up until early June, consequently we never planted our tubers until well into the first week of June. As far as I am concerned we had another long spell of drought with the odd shower and sometimes good rain in between. As usual August arrived, dragging summer along, kicking and screaming. Hot humid and hateful....I phoned my sister down in Texas and their daily temps were in the 105 degree range with very much humidity, so I guess it's all relative.... Since our wonderfully successful National Show, the garden has never looked better with blooms everywhere; I actually measured Camano Sitka at just over eight feet tall with the bloom (I don't know if that's a good thing) and I still have the odd plant at 1 foot tall; say good-bye to that one.

### Summer Report

A beautiful sunny day greeted us as we made our way to the summer BBQ at the home of Eric and Joyce Higgins. As always it was a great opportunity to renew old acquaintances and meet new people. The food was delicious and many more recipes will be swapped. Of course the afternoon passed all too quickly with just not enough time to tour the gardens and meet and talk with everyone. I can't believe it; it actually rained on our little affair, but Joyce and Eric quickly made us all comfortable inside while we ate, so good. The gardens were outstanding as usual. Next year, rain will not be invited.

**The Garden Tour** ended our season on a high note. Strong winds and rain were forecast to arrive late Saturday, so the tour on Sunday was sort of up in the air. Sunday was calm and after a few phone calls to ensure that no one had been blown away, a few of us jumped in the Van and drove to Herring Cove to visit the gardens of Joe and Helen Lapierre, Alice and Dermott Dempsey and Jack and Marie O'neil. I was quite overwhelmed with the obvious efforts that had gone into each of their gardens, not to mention their respective landscaping talents. What I really appreciate about these garden visits, number one, is to enjoy good company and refreshments and next, of course, are the gardens. Joe has spent many years hybridizing Dahlias in his greenhouse out back and his efforts have resulted in the "Tribune" series of fine flowers that he has introduced, some of which were on display. Alice and Dermot's garden was an eye catcher from the moment we drove up in the car and when we walked around back, it was obvious that much love and care had gone into their peaceful setting. As a bonus, Rod and I got to talk fishing with Dermott and I was given some handcrafted Mackerel hooks after a quick tour of Dermott's Cape Islander fishing boat. As we were getting ready to leave, Jack showed up, so we had to invite him back to his place so that we could go visit him. Five minutes later we drove onto Jack and Marie's beautiful property and were immediately impressed with Jack's great rock walls, his circular fencing around their beautiful collection of Dahlias and their beautiful house, which although fairly new, retains the charm of the rustic village of Herring Cove.

## The Shows

### Halifax County Exhibition 2005 - *Dahlia Show Results*

This year's show despite the irregular weather provided a beautiful display of dahlias for the public to view. Thanks goes out to all the exhibitors who brought what they had in their gardens to make the display. Special thanks goes out to Eric and Joyce Higgins and George and Ruth Graham who arrange the setting up and breakdown of the show as well as looking after supervision during the four day display. The top winners are listed below.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Variety</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	
Dec over 8in	Spartacus	George Graham	
Dec 6-8in	White Hamilton Lillian	Arthur Haskins	<b><u>Best Decorative</u></b>
Dec 4-6in	Goldilocks	Arthur Haskins	
Dec under 4in	Glen Echo	Carol Dexter	
Cactus over 8in	Scorpion	Carol Dexter	
Cactus 6-8in	Juanita	George Graham	
Cactus 4-6in	Ruskin Marigold	Arthur Haskins	<b><u>Best Cactus</u></b>
Cactus under 4in	Mini Red	Carol Dexter	
Semi-Cactus over 8in	Atari Majesty	Arthur Haskins	
Semi-Cactus 6-8in	Hamari Accord	Arthur Haskins	
Semi-Cactus 4-6in	Dana Iris	Arthur Haskins	<b><u>Best Semi Cactus</u></b>
Semi-Cactus under 4in	Mary Jo	Carol Dexter	
Laciniated over 8in	Cyril Higgo	Arthur Haskins	
Laciniated 6-8in	Tioga Autum	Carol Dexter	
Laciniated 4-6in	Urchin	Arthur Haskins	<b><u>Best Lac</u></b>
Ball	Mary's Jomanda	Arthur Haskins	<b><u>Best Ball</u></b>
Mini Ball	Chimicum Troy	Arthur Haskins	
Pompon	Kuniko	Carol Dexter	<b><u>Best Pom</u></b>
Waterlily	Joal Louisa	Arthur Haskins	<b><u>Best WL</u></b>
Mignon	Rembrant	Carol Dexter	<b><u>Best Mignon</u></b>
Collarette	Sean C	Arthur Haskins	<b><u>Best Collarette</u></b>
Orchid	Seedling	Carol Dexter	<b><u>Best Orchid</u></b>
Any Other Formation	Powder Gull	Arthur Haskins	<b><u>Best OF</u></b>
Largest Bloom	Spartacus	Arthur Haskins	<b><u>Largest</u></b>
Novice Grower	Dana Iris	Veterns Memorial Hospital	
Basket - Decorative	Jomanda	Arthur Haskins	
Basket - Cactus	Ruskin Marigold	Arthur Haskins	<b><u>Best Basket</u></b>
Basket - Waterlily	Pam Howden	George Graham	

**BEST ENTRY** in show was the semi-cactus dahlia "Dana Iris" exhibited by Arthur Haskins

### AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY NATIONAL SHOW

The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual ADS National Show was held September 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada and was blessed with warm sunny weather from beginning to end. The

festivities began Thursday evening with Hospitality, where everyone had a chance to meet up with old friends and make some new ones and sample some large cinnamon rolls and cookies, a bit of fruit and some cheese along with refreshments.

The Friday Tour took us to the beautiful Annapolis Valley to view two large dahlia gardens, Ed and Sylvia Alley were first to show us their large dahlia patch and after a trip to a local country craft shop and a barbeque lunch we finished at the dahlia garden of Lil Girroir and David Steele. Before leaving, the bus climbed to the Cape Blomidon Lookoff, where everyone was given a wonderful view of the Annapolis Valley below.

Friday evening the blooms began to arrive, some from as far away as Philadelphia and Rhode Island. By 9am Saturday morning the Commonwealth Ballroom of the hotel was full with over 2000 blooms on display, and a mass floral display by Annie Radcliffe of the National Capital Dahlia Society in the main foyer of the hotel. The judging teams with their clerks began to judge and select the top winners for the court of honor, and by noon the deed was done and we all headed for a well deserved lunch in the Banquet Hall. The afternoon was free time to go back and take a closer look at the show winners, or many took the opportunity to walk down to the Historic Waterfront along the harbour and take in the sights and sounds of our local culture and artists.

Saturday evening began with a reception centered around Annie Radcliffe's mass dahlia display,



and was followed by the banquet in the Atlantic Ballroom. The guests were quickened to their seats by a local group of musicians called "Fiddles and Feet" playing a series of traditional jigs and reels, and many a guest danced to their seat. Everyone enjoyed the banquet meal and especially the streamlined awards presentations. The evening finished with our musical entertainment playing a mixture of traditional, show tunes and old time favorites such as "Orange Blossom Special".

Sunday morning began with the Classification Committee meeting followed by the ADS Annual Meeting which was well attended and featured some spirited discussions. During the morning the show was open to the public and a large number of visitors admired the wonderful blooms. After lunch many of the delegates took part in the Adventure Tours - Deep Sea Fishing, the Harbour Hopper an amphibious craft that travels through the downtown streets and then out into the harbour, and a Brewery Tour to the oldest operating brewery in North America. Some of the delegates opted to take their own tour of some of Nova Scotia's most scenic sights, including Peggy's Cove and the Town of Lunenburg a World Heritage Site.

Sunday afternoon was busy with visitors to the show and at four o'clock the word was given to break down the show, first item was to dispose of the dahlia blooms and this did not take long as wide eyed spectators and hotel staff made off with their floral booty. The cleanup then began, our own members assisted by helpful delegates made short work of packing up and finished in record time.

Monday morning saw the big bus roll up in front of the hotel to begin the "Morning After Tour". A full bus load and three cars in a convoy began the tour with a short stop and viewing from the bus of the Veteran's Memorial Gardens at Camp Hill Veteran's Hospital. Next it was on to the first stop, the garden of Show Chairmen Arthur Haskins, 300 dahlias in full bloom situated right next the river in Great Village; water gardens, hosta, and perennials rounded out the view. Then a short trip to the Town of Truro, to the garden of Joan and Allan Randall, nestled in next to the towns Victoria Park gave a wonderful background to their dahlia patch. As we drove up to their home their circular drive was lined with about sixty container dahlias in bloom almost like an honor guard. Joan's hooked rugs and Allan's wood carvings of wildlife were on display and admired greatly by the group. Next it was on to the Stewiacke Valley and a stop at the Presbyterian Church for a traditional church pot luck meal of homemade baked beans, scalloped potatoes, meats balls, pasta dishes, homemade rolls, tea and coffee and wonderful homemade deserts. Two members of a local musical group entertained through lunch and then it was back on the bus and a two minute drive down the road to the garden of Ruth and George Graham. The Graham's dahlia plot is most unusual, they grow in a gray slate soil with very little organic matter or soil for that matter, and yet they had lots of bloom and good looking plants. George commented that drainage is never a problem regardless of how much it rains. Then back on the bus and on to the garden of Joyce and Eric Higgins in Middle Musquodoboit, perennials, roses, waters gardens, lilies and beautiful annual baskets adorn their gardens and up behind the row of trees were the dahlias, all 1200 of them, and along the entire edge were sunflowers in full bloom. Joyce and Eric donate many of their blooms to the local hospital and seniors' home. Joyce enjoys mostly the smaller BB sizes or miniature dahlias for making arrangements for the patients.

Then it was back to the hotel, but not without another one lane bridge for the bus to maneuver through and a sighting of three white tail deer feeding in a field beside the road. We arrived back at the hotel where we bid our guests a final farewell and safe journey home.

The Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia wishes to thank all of the volunteers, sponsors, the staff of the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel, and the American Dahlia Society, for helping stage the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual ADS National Dahlia Show. We wish to especially thank all of the dahlia enthusiasts who traveled to the show and helped make it a success, without your continued support these shows could not continue. It was wonderful to have you visit Canada's Ocean Playground and exchange ideas and information with members of the Nova Scotia Society; may you take home many fine memories of our food, our heritage, and our hospitality. Thank you for sharing this with us.

Arthur Haskins, Show Chairmen

## **Tips and Tricks**

Now is a good time to prepare your garden for a bumper crop of Dahlias next summer and the best first step is to do a soil analysis. Last fall as we prepared our beds for winter I thought that since I had never done it before, perhaps now would be a good time to spread lime on the garden. Thinking for a change, I dug up some soil samples and took them up to the Agricultural College in Truro. They cost \$12.50 each. A few weeks later I received a detailed report in the mail advising me that I had low phosphorus fertility in the one sample and medium fertility in the other sample. (different gardens) They made recommendations for which fertilizer to use and how much. Because my soil Ph was 6.3 and 6.5 for each sample, they suggested that I should **not** put limestone into my gardens for a couple of years, wow. In Nova Scotia it is kind of a fall

custom to lime.....For a soil Test Report of your own or for information, please call:

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Quality Evaluation Division

Laboratory Services

PO Box 550

Truro NS B2N 5E3

Tel: (902) 893-7444

FAX: (902) 893-4193

E-mail: [larsima@gov.ns.ca](mailto:larsima@gov.ns.ca)

Web Page : <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/qe/analytical/soilsamp.htm>

## **TUBERS** (Parts of the following was borrowed from Wayne Holland's web-site)

The busy time of the Exhibition season is over. The blooms are available for all, with no cutting restrictions or rules; no special "don't touch that one" blooms. You've eased up on the heavy disbudding. Fantastic bounty. Then the rains begin . . . and stop . . . and the blooms return . . . and on . . . and on . . .and then the frost.

I find that I'm always quite ready for the end of the blooming season. It's not a sad time at all. Rather it's an exciting opportunity to see what the UNDER-GROUND HARVEST has produced. Those fabulous tubers that the Dahlia makes so freely. Well usually there is a good crop, but it is never certain! What will you find when you dig? What about that new, expensive one that bloomed so well? Will you be able to plant lots of it next year? There seems to be some mystery about digging and storing Dahlias, but it is very easy. This is what to do.

Cut off the top growth. Leave a few inches of stem exposed above ground to act as a handle and as a place to tie the variety label. Some folks move the stake label to the stem right away, even before digging. Remove the stake. The stem should not be full of water, nor hollow enough that water could fill it. If it is water filled, you must dig immediately and trim the stem back to solid tissue. Sometimes rot will have already produced those brown streaks that extend into the healthy white tissue of the tuber. This is a bad sign. If the variety is replaceable, give up and discard it on the spot. Benomyl CAN work, and I'll try it if I have to. Now I've gone and scared you! Well, unless you have brutally disbranched or cut extremely long stemmed blooms, you will not get this problem in normal cultivation, so relax.

The tubers are quite safe in the soil for a week or two as long as the ground does not freeze. Some people like to divide their garden tasks into stages and cut down and clean up at one time, and then dig a few days later(after a rest!). Many feel that the eyes plump up a bit and are easier to see.

Use a spade or shovel, round or straight edge, but with a good strong handle. Do not use a garden fork. A fork won't cut the fine roots free and much more damage will be done. Insert the spade straight down about 9 inches out from the stalk and continue around in a circle. Then work the spade in and under and lever the whole mass up. Not too much. If it is stuck, you will have to spade around again and cut all the feeder roots. When free, push down on the handle some more and if you are strong enough, lift the whole mass out of its hole and, while still on the shovel, bounce it gently once or twice to get rid of some dirt. If it is too

heavy, most of the dirt can be removed with your fingers and judicious small shaking movements using the stalk as a handle - and then lift it. Clean away any easily removed soil and set aside. Dig another one. Etc . . . Don't forget to label them! This is where the crowd will split into different treatment techniques depending upon many very important personal differences.

**Technique #1.** Leave the dirt on. Let dry. It is very important to do the drying in a COOL area to prevent shriveling. The dry soil will largely fall away. Trim the stem and all surplus & long, thin roots. If you have a root cellar or frost free, dirt floored shed, this will be sufficient - in fact it is ideal! Perhaps a covering of newspaper and/or a dusting of fungicide. This is Ferncliff Garden's technique (our major local specialist grower). Cutting the clump into separate tubers can be done at any time, however it is critically important to allow a COOL drying/healing/callusing time. Remember - the tuber is a living, growing thing. Give it a chance to heal.

**Technique #2.** Wash the dirt off. Let dry. A cool drying period is so important. It is probably the one thing that most determines successful storage. Cutting the clump into individual tubers is best postponed for a few days to allow the development of a tough surface skin. Cool, but no frost of course. Then divide. Chemicals can be used at this point, but many are finding that nothing, or perhaps some Sulphur, is quite sufficient. I find it convenient to pass the cut tubers through a wettable sulphur bath because I want them wet anyway so that I can write their name on them with an Indelible Pencil. Let dry & heal for at least a few days. Once properly dried and cured and with healed cuts, the tubers can stand amazingly warm conditions without shriveling. I have had tubers in a shed all summer that are still plump in August! The Dahlia survives its wild Mexican dry dormant season because of the WATER that it stores. Proper curing is the key. Give the natural survival mechanisms a chance.

Once you have divided, I recommend Vermiculite & plastic bags for convenient storage. I have tried SAND - too heavy! Peat Moss - too drying! Soil - too variable. The clear plastic vegetable bags at the supermarket are excellent and big enough to hold a typical divided clump. Add a 4 inch pot of dry vermiculite - the bag doesn't have to be full, but full is OK. The purpose is to create a micro environment of dry Mexican mountain soil. If spoilage does occur the vermiculite soaks up the released juices and largely prevents the spread of disease. Do take a look once in a while, through the clear plastic bag. Don't tie it, just fold over firmly. Wear a Filter Mask when working with vermiculite or perlite. They are cheap insurance. Get some. I mark the bag with labeled masking tape and pack them into grape boxes. 18 boxes = 300 clumps and about 2000 tubers. My storage is in an unheated basement room that also serves as a wine cellar. You are bound to break or spoil a few, but never mind, everybody does! You'll have plenty.

**How we did it:** We cut the tops of our Dahlias, leaving sufficient stalk to serve as a carrying handle; we affix a variety tag right away, because it's just too easy to get confused when sorting tuber clumps. We leave the clumps in the ground for 4-5 days as we do notice that the eyes plump up a bit which makes it easier when we later divide the clumps into tubers. After those few days have elapsed, we dig the clumps on a dry day and just let them sit on the ground surface for a few hours. This seems to firm up the stems a bit. After that it's on with the rubber boots and rain suit because we are going to hose down the clumps, getting rid of as much of the dirt as possible. Once clean, we place the clumps in a dry breezy area to dry. Usually the following morning we set about separating the tubers from the clumps. Notice the plump eyes that that will become next year's flower on the top photo. Separate the tubers from the main stem, ensuring that you have eyes on each tuber. Discard the "Mother" tuber (dark brown tuber in second photo). Tools we use are tree loppers, pruning saw, box-cutter type knife and pruners. Some tubers slice off quite nicely with a sharp knife, others, dynamite. Once they have dried for an hour, maybe a few, you will be able to write the variety name on each tuber with a permanent marker, sharpie pen, or indelible pencil if you prefer. As mentioned above, the tubers must be given time to heal/cure. Usually, after 24 hours, the tuber should be dry and firm to the touch, if not wait longer if necessary. Many people use a small amount of vermiculite or

peat moss in a sandwich bag to store their tubers. Last year, what really worked well for us was layering our tubers in a large plastic container with a lid (3feet long, 16 inches wide, 15 inches high), purchased at Home Depot or Wal-Mart. A layer of vermiculite on the bottom, a layer of tubers, keeping them away from the sides and ensuring they didn't touch one another, all the way to the top, finishing with a layer of Vermiculite. We hardly lost any, which is almost 100% better than we did the year before, considering the crazy temperature fluctuations in our basement last fall and winter.



**Joe Lapierre** has another method for storing tubers that really worked well for him last year and could work well for anyone without access to a cool basement or garage.

Tuesday, 18 Jan.05, 9:15 Am

I believe I mentioned to you earlier that I planned on experimenting with saran wrap to protect those tubers I wished to grow next season. In fact I wrapped 189 tubers individually in 64 separate bundles----each bundle contained from 1 to 6 tubers. These I stored in a cardboard sided barrel; in this same barrel I also stored 6 plastic bags, each containing 10 tubers of The City Of Halifax. The tubers were completely covered with vermiculite in each bag.

After 21/2 months of storage I decided last Friday to check them out----here are the results. Of the saran wrapped bundles, 1 bundle containing 1 tuber had rotted and 1 tuber in a bundle of 4 had also rotted. All others appeared to be firm and healthy. So, there was a total loss of 2 out of 189 or 1%. The 6 bags of the City each contained some rot for a total loss of 9 tubers or 15%.

All tubers are now back in storage for the remaining 21/2 months but I feel the half way check results to be encouraging and informative. Just thought you might be interested! Regards, Joe.

Thursday, 7 April 05, 7:30 Pm

Just got through checking my tubers after 5 months of storage and here are the Results:

Of the 189 tubers stored wrapped in saran wrap, 8 tubers were lost to rot or, 4.2 percent; and

Of the 235 tubers stored in plastic bags and vermiculite, 74 were lost to rot or, 31.4 percent.

Can you guess how I will store my tubers next year? Have you checked yours yet?

I hope the Dahlia Gods took good care of them for you. Regards, Joe.

### **And this useful info from Susan Aucoin**

Hi I love dahlias and always have problems with earwigs, I find it hard to spray them as I like to put them in flower shows, this year I planted a few marigolds in with them, it really saved a lot of my dahlias; and if a dahlia stem breaks off with a bud on it, take it in the house and place in warm water; I've taken one in that was only found in the morning. It placed first in a show; it was a waterlily.

### **And Finally**

One of the great things about attending meetings and shows, especially our National Show this year, were the interesting and varied folk we met. I and a fellow I met from Seattle, WA, we were talking about insect pests and in particular earwigs, go figure. He, like most of us, is growing increasingly weary of chemical sprays and sometimes the difficulty of obtaining them as so many are slowly being removed from the store shelves. After much research on his part he has started experimenting successfully with Green Lace wings, Nematodes (there are seekers and ambushers) and Diatomaceous Earth. All of the above are available through your local Nursery or at least further information can be gathered there and I know that the "Earth" is available from the Kent store in our neighbourhood. In the case of the "earth" a slight dusting around each plant as required is supposedly all that is necessary. I suppose, like any insecticide, that a re-application might be necessary after a rain. The fellow from Seattle also advised that if going the Lacewing/nematode route, you must not spray as you would probably kill the little guys trying to do their work. Interestingly enough, after our initial spray with "Ambush" in June, we never sprayed again. Why? Because the earwigs just didn't bother eating after that, instead they were busy munching on aphids, or so I'm told. So, there were still earwigs out there, they just weren't hurting the plants so much. I think the collars (ice cream or margarine containers) we place around each plant help keep certain beasts away also.

### **Program Notes and Things to Pass Along:**

- September 28** Hands on demonstration on how to cut/split dahlia tubers and winter storage methods;
- October 26** Round table discussion by members about putting your garden to bed for the winter; and
- November 30** Recap of the ADS 2005 National show hosted by our society.

### **There is no meeting in December**

The only correspondence mailed to Members is the Newsletter and Mailing List and Renewal Form, which lately, has been included in some issues. Those requiring information regarding show schedules, i.e., flower arrangement requirements for shows, should either attend our meetings or make arrangements to have them picked up, as they would to acquire tags. This information is usually available at the summer BBQ.

John Proctor advises that those interested in ADS memberships through the society to send their renewal fee to him unless they expect to be at the November meeting.

Don't forget to visit our Website when you get a chance. For new members, all recent newsletters are published and there is a wealth of other information. [Dahlianovascotia.com](http://Dahlianovascotia.com)

**This is my last Newsletter**, sob. David Steele has volunteered to take over the reins of our little publication. Dave is a large grower from Canning NS, who specializes in cut flowers. He also won a best new seedling award at our National show. I'm sure he will bring a fresh and varied outlook to the Newsletter. His phone number is 1-902-582-3596. E-mails may be directed to [d.steele@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:d.steele@ns.sympatico.ca)

Well, another season has come to an end and what a season it was. Our show was certainly a once in a lifetime event. Of course, it couldn't have been done without those tireless folk toiling behind the scenes and our many members who stepped forward to give a hand when needed. Now it's time to put things to bed for the winter and have a nice rest from our hard summer work. Everyone is pretty much Dahlied out right about now but once the Catalogs start arriving over the winter and we order that next prize winning tuber, the excitement will return. We'll see you at the Dahlia meetings where it's always fun to visit with those we haven't seen for awhile. Our next Newsletter will be in January, talk to you then.

**DAHLIA SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA: Membership Form**  
**DSNS dues are \$5.00 single and \$7.00 for family in Cdn funds**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ APT \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

Province/State \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and or E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Single: (\$5.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Family: (\$7.00) \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to: the DAHLIA SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA**

**Mail to: David Steele**  
**574 Gospel Road**  
**RR5 Canning NS**  
**B0P 1H0**

## *I Grow Dahlias*

*What flowers to you grow in your garden my friend  
To brighten the hours of working you spend  
Digging and weeding to help plants grow?  
Well, I grow Dahlias, I'll have you know.  
True, they don't have perfume of roses so rare,  
But have colours with which none can compare.  
Roses bloom for a time, then vanish away.  
I grow Dahlias which bloom day after day.  
For the more blooms you cut, the more appear,  
That's why I grow Dahlias year after year.  
I grow Dahlias to show my friendship and love,  
Just passing on that which I receive from above.  
Dahlias bring friends together even for short stays,  
Like the time we've enjoyed these past few days.  
We've all talked about Dahlias – how to grow  
The very best blooms to win in the big show.  
Everywhere each grower could be heard to say,  
Yes, I grow Dahlias and I grow them my way!*

*Ruth Graham*