

Dahlia Classification and Formation

Group 1: Single flowered dahlias



Single flowered dahlias have blooms with a single outer ring of florets, which may overlap, the centre forming a disc.

Group 2: Anemone flowered dahlias



Anemone flowered dahlias have blooms with one or more outer rings of generally flattened ray florets surrounding a dense group of tubular florets, which are longer than the disc florets in Single dahlias, and showing no disc.

Group 3: Collarette dahlias



Collarette dahlias have blooms with a single outer ring of generally flat ray florets, which may overlap, with a ring of small florets (the collar), the centre forming a disc.

Group 4: Waterlily dahlias



Waterlily dahlias have fully double blooms characterised by broad ray florets, which are straight or slightly involute along their length, giving the flower a saucer shaped appearance. The depth should be no more than one third of the diameter of the bloom

Group 5: Decorative dahlias



Decorative dahlias have fully double blooms showing no disc.

The ray florets are generally broad and flat, or slightly twisted and usually bluntly pointed, and may be involute* for no more than 75% of their length.

Group 6: Ball dahlias



Ball dahlias have fully double blooms, ball shaped or slightly flattened.

The ray florets are blunt or rounded at the tips, spirally arranged, with margins involute* for at least 75% of the length of the florets.

Group 7: Pompon dahlias



Pompon dahlias have fully double, spherical blooms with florets involute* for the whole of their length (longitudinal axis).

Group 8: Cactus dahlias



Cactus dahlias have fully double blooms, the ray florets are usually pointed, the majority narrow and revolute* for 65% or more of their length (longitudinal axis), and either straight or incurving.

* **Involute** = Petals curl inwards towards the centre of the flower & upwards, towards the sky.

* **Revolute** = Petals curl outwards down their length away from the centre of the flower & curl downwards towards the ground.

Group 9: Semi-Cactus dahlias



Semi Cactus dahlias have fully double blooms, the ray florets are usually pointed, and revolute* for more than 25% and less than 65% of their length (longitudinal axis), broad at base and either straight or incurving.

Group 10: Miscellaneous dahlias

This group consists of any dahlias which do not fall into one of the previous groups 1-9 inclusive of following groups 11,12,13 and 14.

E.g. Thistle dahlias or dwarf varieties etc. Includes species dahlias.

Group 11: Fimbriated dahlias



Fimbriated dahlias have blooms where the tips of the ray florets should be evenly split or notched into two or more divisions, uniformly throughout the bloom creating a fringed effect. The petals may be flat, involute*, revolute, straight, incurving or twisted.

Group 12: Star dahlias



Star dahlias have blooms with a single outer ring of florets surrounding the disc. Ray florets are uniformly either involute or revolute*.

Group 13: Double-Orchid dahlias



Double-Orchid dahlias have fully double blooms, showing no disc.

Ray florets are narrowly lance shaped and either involute or revolute*.

Group 14: Paeony dahlias



Paeony dahlias have multiple outer rings of ray florets surrounding a disc.

Ray florets are flat or slightly involute* at base and are flat or are to some extent, revolute*.

Groups and sizes

Certain groups have been sub divided for classification as follows:

(5) Decorative, (8) Cactus, (9) Semi cactus & (11) Fimbriated dahlias

- A) Giant flowered - over 250mm (10") in diameter
- B) Large flowered - between 200mm (8") and 250mm (10") in diameter
- C) Medium flowered - between 150mm (6") and 200mm (8") in diameter
- D) Small flowered - between 100mm (4") and 150mm (6") in diameter
- E) Miniature flowered - not exceeding 100mm (4") in diameter

(6) Ball dahlias.

- A) Small Ball dahlia- between 100mm (4") and 150mm (6") in diameter
- B) Miniature Ball dahlia - between 50mm (2") and 100mm (4") in diameter

(7) Pompon dahlias.

- A) Large Pompon - over 50mm (2") and not exceeding 75mm (3") in diameter
- B) Pompon - not exceeding 50mm (2") in diameter