

DREAMLAND FLOWER FARM



Merrie's Dahlia Guide: Create your own dream garden

Learn how to create cohesiveness
in your garden through
color, shape, height and repetition.



I am Merrie Avallone and I am dahlia lover, garden designer and flower farmer from Cromwell, CT (zone 6).

I have 30+ years of growing experience. I started Dreamland Flower Farm to share my knowledge and passion for flowers.

This guide is to help you create the garden of your dreams.

Elements of Cohesiveness:

USE COLOR, SHAPE, HEIGHT and REPETITION
to create harmony and visual interest

Color

Selecting the right colors is an easy way to bring visual interest to your garden. When two or more colors flow beautifully together, it is called a color harmony, and it often sets the tone and atmosphere of your outdoor space.



For example:
Peach, soft pink and warm yellow create this dreamy pastel harmony.

Dahlias Featured:
1. Bloomquist Pleasing
2. KA Coral Sea
3. Bracken Palomino

Additional Examples:

click on dahlia name to go to Dreamland's Tuber Information

Coral ([Parkland Tribute](#)), Raspberry ([Mission Gypsy](#)), Pink ([Sandra](#))

Purple ([Diva](#)), Orange ([Camano Buz](#)), Pink ([Caitlin's Joy](#))

Burgundy ([Sam Hopkins](#)), Coral ([Sylvia Craig Hunter](#)), Orange ([Maarn](#))

Shape

Dahlias come in over 30 unique shapes, but by selecting just a few, your garden will feel beautifully harmonious. For the most striking effect, aim for no more than four distinct shapes. I recommend using Ball, Formal Decorative and Informal Decorative shaped dahlias.



For Example:
Ball Shaped
Dahlias in the
same size create
a cohesive feel.

Dahlias Featured:

1. Ivanetti
2. Cornel Bronze
3. Caitlin's Joy
4. Cornel
5. Isabel

This collection is a perfect example of how to feature ball-shaped dahlias while showcasing the power of color, creating a cohesive and captivating display for your outdoor space.

Additional Examples:

Formal Decorative Shape: Diva, Bloomquist Alan, Peaches N Cream Sport

Informal Decorative Shape: American Dawn, Salmon Runner, Stellar R

Height

Incorporating dahlias into your garden with different heights in mind adds another layer of cohesion. Selecting the right height and placement creates balance and interest, elevating the overall design of your outdoor space.



Tall

Perfect along a fence line, a wall or back of the border.

Examples:

Penhill Watermelon
Sylvia Craig Hunter
Fire Magic
Ferncliff Illusion
Sam Hopkins
Verquist Glacier

Choosing the correct height will help design your dream garden.

Medium

Ideal for center of the border or for blending heights.

Examples:

20th Ave Memory
Blizzard
Caitlin's Joy
Ferncliff Ebony
Jowey Winnie
MM Buttercream

Short

Best for front of the border, along a walkway, or in a large patio container

Examples:

Dark Spirit
Genova
Koko Puff
Mission Gypsy
Pop Willo
Versa

Repetition

Strategic groupings of the same dahlia create stunning visual interest. Repeating the same variety throughout your flower beds adds a sense of cohesiveness and effortless flow.



Wide Border:

Mass planting many tubers of the same variety give you maximum impact.

30 Maarn tubers are featured here.

Others to consider:
Peaches N Cream
Summer Rain

Narrow Border: Same Variety

Plant 2-3 of same variety then leave a “space/plant with perennial” and then repeat, making a pattern.

In this scenario:
American Dawn
Strawberry Ice
Sweet Sanne
Kenora Lisa

Mixed Border: Different Varieties

Plant 2–3 of one dahlia variety together, then do the same with a different variety. Repeat this pattern to create a beautiful, cohesive design.

In this scenario parter:
Camano Buz- Mary Munns
Parkland Tribute-LATE
Sandra-Hollyhill Bill M

Elements to consider as you design your garden with dahlias



Consider your growing zone and season length. Choose dahlias that bloom in early, mid, and late seasons to keep your garden vibrant from start to finish.



Take note of how many hours of sunlight your garden receives, dahlias love 6+ hours of direct sun.



Measure and calculate the area you have to plant, knowing this will help guide you. Dahlias need approximately 2 feet+ per plant for spacing.



Take your time and read about varieties that peak your interest. Research their attributes and their best growing conditions.





Merrie Avallone

I encourage you to have fun and be creative!!! Gardening is a journey of self discovery—try new combinations, play with colors, and embrace the process. Every season will bring you something new to learn, so enjoy the adventure and let your creativity bloom!

Start making your wishlist now.

the dahlia tuber shops opens in early winter

