FLOWERS · A SUNNY PATIO AFTER FROST HAS PASSED

Let's grow dahlia.

Dahlia 'Gallery Pablo'

This plan is for **Gallery Pablo dahlia**

Is this your plant? Choose one rooted, leafy 'Gallery Pablo', a compact dahlia about 20 inches tall. The main watering plan is for a growing plant; use the separate starting method for a dormant tuber.

A generous pot of summer color.

20-gallon planter **1 nursery plant**

Before you start

Set a rooted, leafy plant outdoors after frost danger and gradual acclimation. A dormant tuber needs the separate, lightly moist starting method; protect or store it where winter freezing threatens.

By jennyzhuang

Sources checked September 25, 2026 View sources

LIGHT

Loves the sun

Give it at least 6 hours of sun, sheltered from strong wind.

WATER

Likes steady moisture

For the rooted plant: check daily and water when the top inch dries.

FEEDING

Feed after the starter mix

Use the mix's nutrients first, then a measured flowering-plant feed.

Dahlias can make cats and dogs ill if eaten. Keep this ornamental planting away from pets that chew plants.

BEFORE YOU START

Your little kit.

- ✓ 1 rooted ‘Gallery Pablo’ dahlia
- ✓ One 20-US-gallon planter with free drainage
- ✓ Fresh potting mix; a short stake if exposed to wind; snips

THE SOIL

Miracle-Gro Organic Potting Mix (US, with starter nutrients; check your bag for its additional-feeding directions)

Start with what’s on this list. Add plant food only when the feeding section says it’s needed.

YOUR SIMPLE GROWING PLAN

One pot. Here’s the plan.

A sunny patio after frost has passed. Start with **nursery plant**.

THE POT

20-gallon planter

Example: a 20-inch-wide × 15½-inch-tall fabric planter. A comparable draining rigid pot also works.

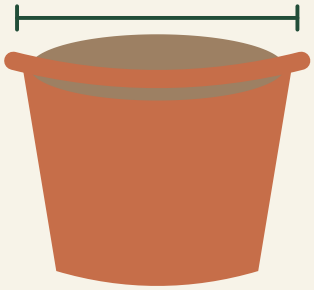
HOW MANY

1 nursery plant

Choose one rooted, leafy ‘Gallery Pablo’, about 20 inches tall at maturity. A dormant tuber needs the separate starting method below.

THE CONTAINER

20-gallon planter



Drainage holes

START WITH

1 nursery plant



Illustration · not to scale

20-gallon planter · 1 nursery plant Example: a 20-inch-wide × 15½-inch-tall fabric planter. A comparable draining rigid pot also works. Choose one rooted, leafy 'Gallery Pablo', about 20 inches tall at maturity. A dormant tuber needs the separate starting method below. Original illustration; not to scale.

01

Wait for frost-free weather

Gradually acclimate a greenhouse-grown plant to outdoor conditions. Choose a sunny, sheltered position.

02

Fill one generous planter

Moisten fresh potting mix and leave about 1 inch below the rim. A large container gets heavy when wet; place it before filling.

03

Plant at the same depth

Set one nursery plant in the center with its root-ball surface at the mix surface. Place a support beside the roots now if needed.

04

Water and watch

Water thoroughly and let excess drain. Check each morning, and remove spent flower stalks back to a healthy leaf or branch as flowering continues.

Help with the setup: drainage holes and saucers · potting mix vs. garden soil.

Other ways to start

Start with a tuber

Use a labeled, healthy 'Gallery Pablo' tuber or clump with a crown bud. Start indoors about 6–8 weeks before you can plant outside. Iowa State's container method covers the tuber body with about 1 inch of mix and leaves the crown at the surface. Keep it frost-free and only slightly moist; soaking an unsprouted tuber can rot it. Once shoots emerge, move it to a bright window or grow light. Acclimate the leafy plant before moving it outside after frost. Seed-grown dahlias will not reliably match this cultivar.

YOUR EVERYDAY ROUTINE

Water & fertilizer at a glance.

WATER WHEN

For the rooted, leafy plant: check each morning and water when the top inch is dry; let excess drain. Keep an unsprouted tuber only slightly moist.

FERTILIZER

Jack's Classic Blossom Booster (US 10-30-20)

AMOUNT

1 level tablespoon in 1 US gallon of water

WHAT THAT AMOUNT COVERS

Mix into water. Apply only enough solution to wet this pot and drain; the mixing batch is not the amount to pour on.

HOW OFTEN TO FEED

Every 10 days while buds and flowers develop.

WHEN TO START OR PAUSE

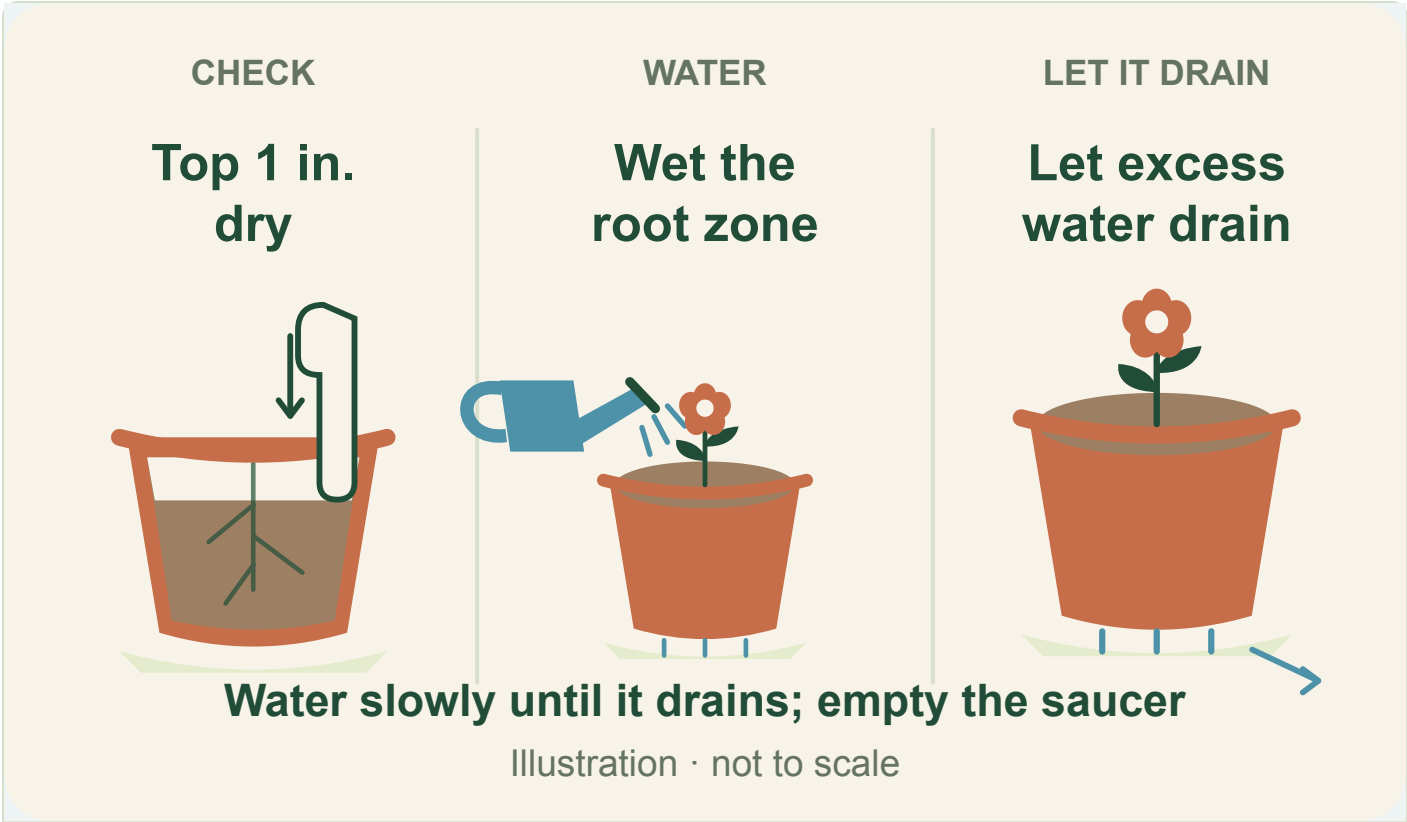
Follow the mix's bag for when additional feed begins, then feed only once buds form. Delay if wet and stop at dormancy; never feed an unsprouted tuber.

Every 10 days is within JR Peters' outdoor 7–10-day range. Use one fertilizer program; follow the actual US package if its directions differ.

01 / EVERYDAY CARE

When to water.

This watering plan is for a rooted plant with leaves. Check each morning. When the top inch is dry, apply water slowly over the mix until excess drains. A hot, windy day can need another check later. Wait if the mix is damp. A dormant, unsprouted tuber uses much less water: keep its starting mix only slightly moist, using the separate method below.



Check before watering. For the rooted, leafy plant: check each morning and water when the top inch is dry; let excess drain. Keep an unsprouted tuber only slightly moist. Original illustration; not to scale.

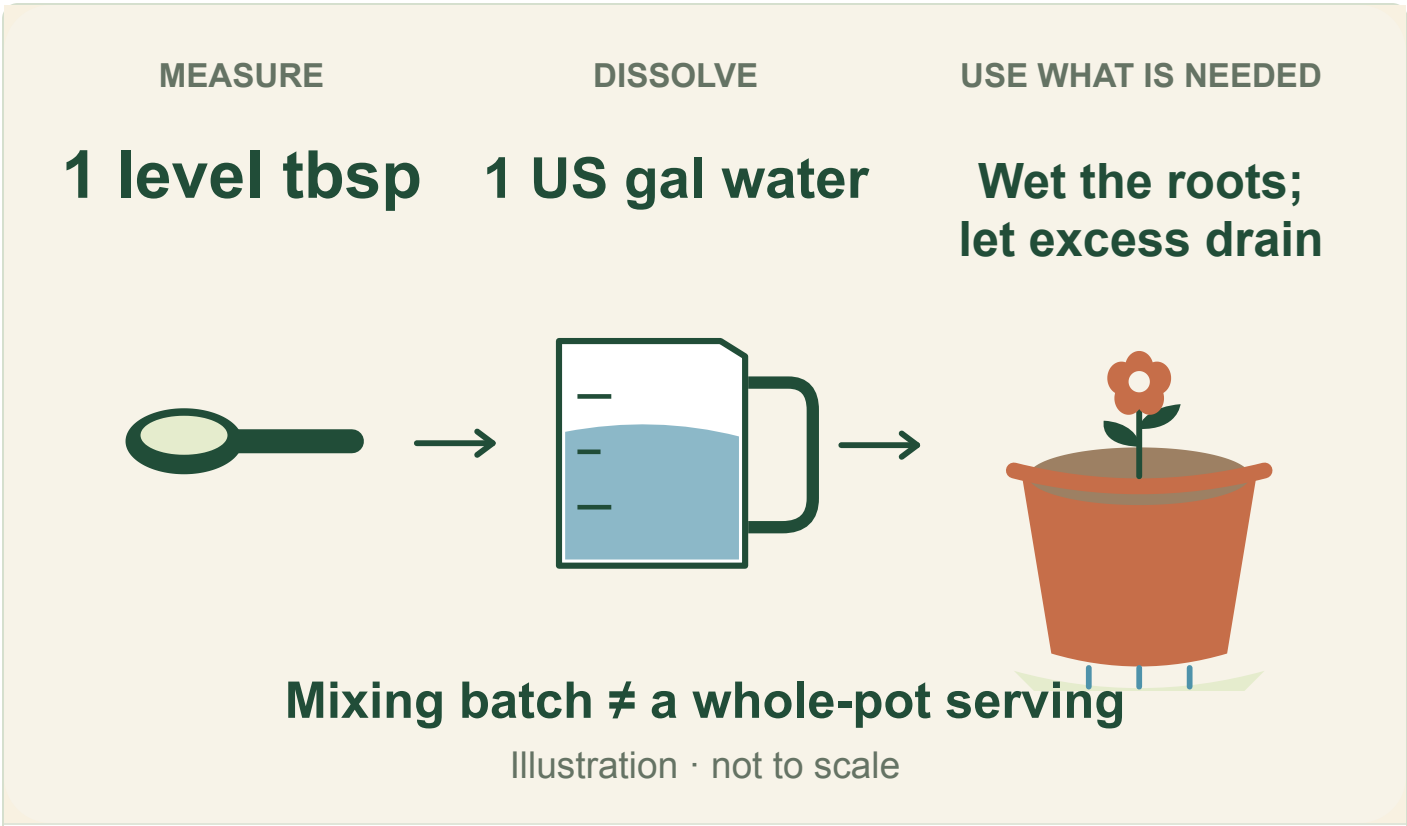
> **The easy rule**
>
> Check first. Water only when the plant needs it.

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02 / PLANT FOOD

Exactly what to feed it.

Start with the nutrients already in the named potting mix. Check your purchased bag for when to begin additional feeding; do not assume every enriched mix feeds for the same number of weeks. Another mix may contain a different starter feed or none. Do not add a second full feeding program at planting. Begin the flowering feed only once additional feeding is due and buds are visible.



1 level tablespoon in 1 US gallon of water Mix into water. Apply only enough solution to wet this pot and drain; the mixing batch is not the amount to pour on. Every 10 days while buds and flowers develop. Follow the mix's bag for when additional feed begins, then feed only once buds form. Delay if wet and stop at dormancy; never feed an unsprouted tuber. Original illustration; not to scale.



US PRODUCT REFERENCE

Jack's Classic

Blossom Booster

10-30-20

Soluble: mix into water

Check the official US product ↗

Illustrated reference; check the manufacturer's current packaging and US label.

A SPECIFIC US PRODUCT

Jack's Classic Blossom Booster (US 10-30-20)

Mix 1 level tablespoon of Jack's Classic Blossom Booster 10-30-20 in 1 US gallon of water. Feed at the roots every 10 days during active bud and bloom growth, once the potting mix's starter feed no longer covers the plant. This follows JR Peters' outdoor 7–10-day range. Use only enough solution to wet this pot and drain; never add the full batch automatically. If still wet, delay. Do not feed a dormant tuber or combine full-rate fertilizers. Follow the directions on your actual US package.

Check the manufacturer's product page ↗

Use the named US formulation. A different product or concentration needs different directions. The amount mixed is a batch, not a dose to pour into one pot.

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03 / WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Flowering through the frost-free season

'Gallery Pablo' has coral/apricot double flowers and a compact habit. A flowering nursery plant gives color quickly; a young plant or tuber needs more time. Bloom can continue through summer and fall until frost.

Outdoor planting and winter plans

Set outdoors after your local frost danger has passed. Where the pot can freeze, plan to lift/store the tubers or replace the plant next season; outdoor survival is not guaranteed across the US.

For regional planting windows, find your local Cooperative Extension office ↗.

Something looking off?

Something is chewing the new leaves.

Inspect for slugs, especially after dusk, and remove visible pests. Check before assuming the plant needs fertilizer.

There are little insects on the buds.

Inspect for aphid clusters. Gently rinse or remove localized colonies, then check again as new shoots grow.

It is wilting but the mix stays wet.

Check drainage and the stem base. Stop automatic watering; persistently wet roots can rot. Do not feed a waterlogged plant to revive it.

Storing tubers and choosing the pot

Lift and store tubers where freezing threatens

Where winter freezing threatens, lift after frost kills the foliage, then clean and dry the tubers. Store in a ventilated box with vermiculite or wood shavings at 40–50°F, protected from freezing. Inspect occasionally for rot or severe shriveling.

Understand the roomy starter pot

The example planter is sold as 20 gallons and measures about 20 inches wide by 15½ inches tall. That is a generous layout for one compact dahlia, not a required minimum: RHS recommends about 20 inches of width for container dahlias and allows more than one small bedding type in that space. Our single-plant layout leaves room for roots and easier watering.

Help with your next step.

Set up a pot that drains

Choose drainage holes and manage the saucer before you plant.

Read the fertilizer already in your mix

Check the actual bag before adding a second fertilizer program.

BEHIND THIS GUIDE

Where the advice comes from.

Plant care is based on the sources below. Planting layouts and beginner routines combine that guidance into one practical plan; they are editorial choices, not results from a Plant Care Steps growing trial.

- RHS: 'Gallery Pablo' size and flowering ↗
  https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/143518/dahlia-gallery-pablo-gallery-series-d/details
- RHS: container dahlias and care ↗
  https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/dahlia/growing-guide
- Iowa State: tuber starting ↗
  https://yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu/how-to/planting-and-caring-tender-perennials
- Iowa State: overwintering dahlias ↗
  https://yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu/faq/how-do-i-over-winter-dahlias
- Johnny's: example planter dimensions ↗
  https://www.johnnyseeds.com/tools-supplies/seed-starting-supplies/grow-bags/smart-pot-natural-20-gal.-8374.html
- Maryland Extension: container care ↗
  https://extension.umd.edu/resource/growing-vegetables-containers-and-salad-tables
- ASPCA: dahlia and pets ↗
  https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/aspca-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants/dahlia
- JR Peters: Blossom Booster identity ↗
  https://www.jrpeters.com/online-store/Blossom-Booster-10-30-20-p184837332
- Manufacturer: US fertilizer formula and application directions ↗
  https://www.jrpeters.com/copy-of-draft-resources-for-garden-ce
- Manufacturer: starter feed in the named potting mix ↗
  https://scottsmiraclegro.com/en-us/brands/miracle-gro/products/potting-mix/miracle-gro-organic-potting-mix/78951430.html
- Iowa State: container watering checks ↗
  https://yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu/how-to/care-plants-growing-containers

Something needs updating? Suggest a correction

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Compiled with AI assistance. These first-edition guides have not yet had an independent horticultural review. Read our editorial approach.