

## WHEN WILL YOUR DAHLIAS OPEN?

from [www.southtowndahliacub.com](http://www.southtowndahliacub.com)

Match the appearance of your “bud” with a description below to find out.

**Terms:**

**Involucral Bracts:** Green leaf-like growth surrounding the emerging buds

**Baby Bud:** the tiniest of buds fully enclosed by the Involucral Bracts

**Pea Bud:** a bud that is evident when the Involucral Bracts have opened

Condition of Terminal Bud	Days to Maturity
Baby bud visible within true leaves which are more or less upright	22-26 days
Baby bud emerging from or just free of true leaves	20-22 days
Baby bud enlarged but still entirely covered by bracts	17-19 days
Small pea bud visible within bracts	16-18 days
Big pea bud partly covered by bracts	13-16 days
Bracts upright but still touching bud at sides	11-16 days
Bracts beginning to open out flat, or are flat	10-11 days
Tinge of color visible, or petals loosening at center	7-9 days
Colored petals loosening at center	6-7 days
1-5 petals lifting up straight	6 days
Several petals upright or at 45 degrees, or some flat	5 days
Petals upright or outer row of petals flat	4 days
Nearly open or half open or some petals flat	3 days
Nearly open	2 days
Fully Open	1 day
Mature	Pick the winner!

Southtown Dahlia Club gives credit to the many unknown growers who developed this chart and provided it for members of the Southtown Dahlia Society and dahlia growers everywhere. The above figures are estimates based on average conditions for the top 4 sized dahlias. Timing will vary by cultivar and your conditions.