

# Dahlia Health & ID Check Before Harvest

October 2023  
by Linda Taylor



As the season winds down, now is a good time to take a good look at your dahlia plants, and decide which to keep for next year.



Which have grown and bloomed the best? Which have looked healthy, vigorous and green, with strong, colorful blooms?



This is especially important if you are considering sharing tubers and/or cuttings for sales, trades & giving away next spring.



Check to confirm the variety of each plant, and label it, while they are still in bloom. Some folks like surprises, but customers at our sales usually like to get what they ordered. If you don't know the variety, bring a bloom or a photo to a club meeting and maybe we can figure it out.



Also check for virus and other signs of disease which may have been picked up over the summer. This late in the season, it can be harder to distinguish bug damage, but *if you see markings like those in the attached photos, those plants are likely to have virus*. Dark, sunken streaks on stems could also be indications of fungal or bacterial infections.



Please don't share tubers or cuttings next spring (or even this fall) from plants which look questionable this year. Stick to those which look healthy, to minimize the spread of disease, so we can all enjoy healthier gardens next year.

