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Hong Kong Flower Show



大麗花
Dahlia

維多利亞公園
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大麗花 Dahlia



大麗花 (*Dahlia* spp.) 是菊科大麗花屬多年生草本植物，色彩鮮明豔麗，花形千變萬化，花期一般由夏至秋，其間開花不斷。大麗花栽培歷史雖只有二百多年，卻已是最受歡迎的園藝花卉之一。現時栽培的大麗花由不同原種經長期雜交選育而成，品種繁多，國際上正式登錄的約有19 000種。

Dahlia (*Dahlia* spp.) is a herbaceous perennial of the genus *Dahlia* in the Asteraceae famiy. Its flowers are flamboyant and widely variable in form. Generally speaking flowering is continuous throughout the blooming season from summer to autumn. Although Dahlias have been cultivated for just 200-odd years, they have nevertheless become one of the most popular gardening plants. Nowadays, cultivated Dahlias come in multiple varieties as a result of years of crossing and selective breeding. There are currently about 19 000 officially registered cultivars of Dahlias in the world.

來源 Origin

大麗花原產於中美洲墨西哥，也見於鄰國危地馬拉。1789年，Cavanilles收到從墨西哥城植物園寄來不同原種的大麗花種子，其後成功在歐洲土壤培植。短短數年間，這富麗大方的花卉新星便遍植於歐洲各地的花園，並從歐洲大陸傳播開去。

大麗花傳入中國的時間，普遍認為是十九世紀末。至於傳入途徑，說法有二，其一源於大麗花的別名「天竺牡丹」、「大理菊」和「西番蓮」。「天竺」即印度，「大理」是雲南古城，「西番」則泛指中國藏族地區一帶（包括雲南、四川、西藏、青海等地），從此推斷，大麗花有可能是從印度傳入，沿西藏、雲南等地傳遍全國。

第二種說法來自大麗花另一別稱「東洋菊」。「東洋」即日本，而大麗花初期多見於上海，另華北、東北等地亦見其蹤，因此大麗花也有可能是從日本引進，傳入上海，以至華北、東北地區。

Dahlias are native to Mexico and neighbouring Guatemala in Central America. In 1789, Cavanilles received seeds of several *Dahlia* species shipped from the Botanic Garden in Mexico City, which he later planted successfully in European soil. Within a few years, the gorgeous newcomer became well-established in gardens all over Europe, and thence spread to the rest of the world.

It is generally believed that *Dahlia* was introduced to China towards the end of the nineteenth century. However, there are two schools of thought regarding the route through which it entered the country. One group bases its theory on the plant's various names. "Tianzhu" in "Tianzhu peony" refers to India, and "xifan" (meaning "foreign west") in "xifanlian" is often taken to indicate Tibetan-inhabited areas and their vicinity (including Yunnan, Sichuan and Qinghai), while "Dali", as in "Dali chrysanthemum" was the name of an ancient town in Yunnan. It might then be concluded that Dahlias were brought to China from India and spread throughout the country by way of Tibet and Yunnan.

The other group infers from yet another of *Dahlia*'s names, "*dongyang* chrysanthemum" (or "chrysanthemum from the east ocean", that the plant's route of introduction was through Japan. The first Dahlias in China were found in Shanghai, and some in the northern and north-eastern regions of China –hence the claim that *Dahlia* was brought into Shanghai from Japan, and later spread to north and north-eastern China.



名稱 Nomenclature

「大麗花」之名令人聯想到「碩大」、「美麗」二詞。無疑，大麗花確如其名，亮麗奪目，豐潤飽滿，個別品種花朵直徑逾30厘米，但「大麗」其實由屬名 *Dahlia* 音譯而來，可謂音義雙全。屬名 *Dahlia* 的由來可溯至1791年，當時西班牙馬德里皇家植物園的植物學家 Antonio José Cavanilles 為紀念著名瑞典植物學家 Andreas Dahl，把這種來自美洲新大陸的植物命名為 *Dahlia*。大麗花還有不少別名，包括天竺牡丹、西番蓮、大理菊、地瓜花等。

In Chinese, Dahlia is known as dalihua, literally meaning "big beautiful flower". While the flower is indeed dazzlingly large (some cultivars have floral forms measuring over 30 cm in diameter) and visually stunning, its Chinese name is in fact phonetically transliterated from the English: a perfect marriage of sound and meaning. The genus name Dahlia can be traced back to 1791 when Antonio José Cavanilles, a botanist at Real Jardín Botánico de Madrid, named the new plant from the New World of the Americas "Dahlia", in honour of the celebrated Swedish botanist Andreas Dahl. The plant is known by many other names in Chinese, among them are "Tianzhu peony", "xifanlian", "Dali chrysanthemum" and "sweet potato flower".



形態特徵 Morphology

大麗花的地下塊根是繁衍後代的主要器官，外形肥大，貌似甘薯。植株高度變化很大，矮生種株高不及60厘米，大型品種則可高逾1.5米。莖枝光滑粗壯，節間中空。莖節葉片對生，葉面深綠色，葉背灰綠色。

一朵嬌豔絢爛的大麗花，其實是由眾多小花組成的花序。大麗花與菊花一樣，花序由中心管狀花和外圍舌狀花構成，生於植株頂端或葉腋。管狀花通常黃色，舌狀花則色彩多樣，獨缺藍色。

The principal organ of propagation of *Dahlia* spp. is their underground tuberous roots, which are large and fleshy like sweet potatoes. The maximum height of the plant varies considerably with variety. Dwarf varieties do not grow beyond 60 cm, while the larger ones attain maximum height in excess of 1.5 m. Stems are smooth and thick, with hollow internodes. The leaves, dark green on the upper surface and greyish green on the underside, grow in opposite pairs on the stem.

The gorgeous Dahlia bloom is actually an inflorescence made up of many florets. Like Chrysanthemum, Dahlia has "flowers" with central disc (tubular) florets and peripheral ray (ligulate) florets, growing either at the apices of stems or the leaf axils. Disc florets are usually yellow in colour while ray florets come in all hues but blue.



品種分類 Classification

大麗花栽培品種繁多，花型變化萬千，大部分國家及地區根據植株高度、冠徑大小、花色及花型分類。較常見的大麗花栽培品種包括：

As mentioned, there is a large number of Dahlia cultivars with wide-ranging floral forms. Most countries and regions classify their plants based on their full-grown height, as well as the crown diameter, colour and type of their flowers. The more common Dahlia cultivars include:



單瓣型 Single-flowered Dahlias

花型小；外圍舌狀花一至三層，花瓣寬大、平展；中心管狀花黃色。

The flowers are small and have yellow disc florets in the centre, encircled by one to three rings of large, flattened ray florets.

睡蓮型 Waterlily Dahlias

花型中等，重瓣；花瓣卵形，平展微凹，不露心；花開似睡蓮。

These bear medium-size double flowers, with flattened, oval ray florets that are slightly involute along their length and no visible disc. They resemble Water Lilies when in bloom.



裝飾型 Decorative Dahlias

花型大，重瓣，冠徑逾30厘米；花瓣色彩繽紛，寬大、平展，排列整齊，不露心。

They have large, double blooms, with a crown diameter over 30 cm. The central disc florets are not visible, while the colourful ray florets are broad, flattened and neatly arranged.

圓球型 Ball Dahlias

花型小，重瓣，外圍舌狀花共十層以上；花瓣卵圓形，短而內捲，花心半露或不露心；全花呈整齊球形或半球形。

The blooms are small and double-flowered with more than ten rings of short, ovate and involute ray florets on the periphery of an invisible or partially showing disc. The composite flowers are ball-shaped or slightly flattened.



繡球型 Pompon Dahlias

花型小，重瓣，冠徑不超過5厘米；花瓣內捲，排列整齊，呈蜂巢狀，多不露心。

They produce small, double flowers with a crown diameter of less than 5 cm. Ray florets are involute and neatly arranged in a honeycomb formation. The disc florets usually do not show.

仙人掌型 Cactus Dahlias

花重瓣；舌狀花狹長，向四周伸展，花瓣兩側向外縱捲呈管狀，不露心。

These are double-flowered, with narrow, pointed and revolute ray florets radiating uniformly in all directions from the centre. The disc florets do not show.



栽培要點 Cultivation Notes

大麗花能適應多種氣候和土質，但栽培時仍須注意以下要點：

Although Dahlias can tolerate a range of temperatures and soil conditions, attention should be paid to the following points in planting:

- 大麗花喜溫暖、涼爽的氣候。夏天酷熱時須遮陰或以噴霧降溫，冬天則應防寒、防霜。
- 大麗花性喜陽光，但在全日照下須勤加澆水，因此宜於透光蔭棚下栽培，以便管理。
- 生長環境宜空氣濕潤流通，忌乾燥強風，若密閉或空氣不流通便容易致病。
- 栽種期間適量澆水，避免泥土過濕；謹慎施肥，以磷肥為主，鉀肥次之，氮肥最少，以免氮肥過量，徒長枝葉。
- 土壤以富含腐植質、排水良好的砂質土為合，栽地以地勢較高、背風向陽、不積水、不乾旱為宜。
- 栽植時先開挖植穴，置塊根於穴底，薄覆沃土約2至5厘米。生長期間應定時除草、澆水，若泥土變硬，須稍為鋤鬆表土。
- 大麗花莖部既空且脆，遇風易傾倒折斷，宜立細竹桿作支柱圍繞幼苗，固定植株。
- Dahlias thrive in both warm and cool temperatures. On hot summer days, either provide shade for the plants or mist to cool them down. When temperatures drop in winter, the plants should be protected from the cold and frosts.
- Dahlias like sunlight but require frequent watering if exposed to full sun. For easier management, they should be grown in filtered shade.
- Moist, well-ventilated environments are most suited for growing Dahlias. Dry, windy conditions should be avoided. Enclosed, stagnant air renders the plants more susceptible to diseases.
- After planting, water moderately to avoid excessive moisture accumulating in the soil. Apply fertilisers with care. Use fertilisers that are high in phosphorus, lower in potassium and low in nitrogen. Excessive nitrogenous fertilisers can result in a leggy plant with profuse foliage at the expense of flowers.
- The most suitable soil is a well-drained sandy loam, rich in humus. It is best to plant Dahlias on raised terrain that is sheltered from wind, exposed to good sunlight and free from waterlogging and drought.
- To plant Dahlias in the ground, dig a planting hole and place the tuber root at the bottom before covering the hole with a layer of fertile soil 2-5 cm thick. While the plant is growing, weed and water regularly. If the soil hardens, loosen the topsoil slightly with a hoe.
- Dahlia stems are hollow and brittle, and can easily topple or snap in the wind. To stabilise the stem, support the growing shoot by surrounding it with fine bamboo stakes.



摘芽選蕾 Disbudding

花苗長至約20厘米高時，可按需要摘芽，選留分生側枝，確保養分集中，促進開花。若培育單一大型花朵，除保留頂芽外，還須保留近頂芽的兩個側芽，萬一頂芽意外受損，可用作替補。頂芽發蕾後，摘取側芽的分生側枝，有助頂蕾茁壯生長。

花苗用於花壇和花叢栽植時，要多留分生側枝，待花芽成蕾，陸續開花。接近頂端的花芽較易成蕾，可根據所需開花時間，留取不同部位花芽，安排適時開花。大麗花莖部中空，摘芽選蕾宜於晴朗日子進行，以防切口積水，引致潰爛。

When new flower shoots grow to about 20 cm in height, the growing tips may be pinched out and lateral shoots retained as needed, to ensure the concentration of nutrients to promote flowering. When cultivating for a single large bloom, the apical bud should be retained together with two nearby lateral buds. These side buds can provide replacements in case the apical bud is damaged. However, once the apical bud develops into a flower bud, the side buds should be removed to facilitate the healthy growth of the apical bud.

When planting in flower beds or as mixed clusters, allow more lateral shoots to continue growing and develop into buds, so that flowers can bloom in succession. Apical growth points readily develop into flower buds, so selective pruning can be timed according to a desired schedule to control flowering. As Dahlia's stems are hollow, disbudding is best carried out on sunny days to avoid moisture accumulation at the point of removal, which can lead to rotting.

病蟲害 Pests and Diseases

大麗花常見病害主要有白粉病和捲葉病，常見蟲害則包括蚜蟲和紅蜘蛛。要防治病蟲害，應注意栽地清潔，加強通風，並保持植株健壯。

While common diseases afflicting Dahlias are powdery mildew and leaf curl, the plant is prone to attacks from pests like aphids and red spider mites. General cleanliness of the growing environment, adequate ventilation, and keeping the plant strong and healthy provide the best prevention and defence against pests and diseases.

園藝及其他應用

Horticultural and Other Uses

大麗花易於栽培，以盆栽種，或種於露台、庭園、花壇、花徑等均合適；一些高桿品種常用作切花，是製作花籃、花束的上佳材料，亦常見諸大小花卉展覽。

Dahlias grow easily and are equally suitable for potting or planting on terraces, in gardens, flower beds or flower paths. Some long-stemmed cultivars, often used as cut flowers, are excellent for flower baskets and bouquets, and are frequently exhibited in flower shows.

