

Classifying Dahlias

- The ADS (American Society of Dahlias) Classification and Handbook Guide currently lists ~ 1800 varieties that have won at least one blue ribbon in the last 2 years
- Over 55,000 varieties have been introduced

Classification system

- The ADS categorizes today's dahlias into various groups based on:
 - Size
 - Form
 - Color
- All dahlias classified receive a 4-digit number indicating their size, form and color

Zorro- #0107

Hollyhill Electra- 1403

Lakeview Glow- 4302

Classification System-

■ Sized Dahlias

- Size (5 sizes)- 1st digit (0-4)
- Form (6 forms)- 2nd digit (0-5)

Zorro 0107

“0”- AA

“1”- ID



Table 1

SIZED DAHLIAS			
Size	1 ST #	Form	2 ND #
AA	0	FD	0
A	1	ID	1
B	2	SC	2
BB	3	C	3
M	4	IC	4
		LC	5

Classification System-

- Color- last two digits

Zorro 0107

“0”- AA

“1”- ID

“07”- Dark Red



COLOR	Last 2 #'S
White	01
Yellow	02
Orange	03
Pink	04
Dark Pink	05
Red	06
Dark Red	07
Lavender	08
Purple/Black	09
Light blend	10
Bronze	11
Flame	12
Dark Blend	13
Variegated	14
Bicolor	15

Classification System

- Other forms- 1st two digits
 - 2nd two digits will be color
 - 7306 Red Velvet
 - “73”- Waterlily
 - “06”-Red



OTHER FORMS	
Form	1 ST 2 #'s
BA	60
MB	61
P	62
ST	70
WL	73
NX	76
PE	80
AN	82
NO	86
CO	90
O	92
OT	94
S	96
MS	97

Classifying Dahlias

SIZE--(five size categories- 1st number 1-4)

AA -(#0), over 10 inches in diameter



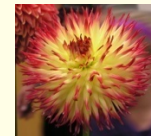
■ A -(#1), over 8 to 10 inches in diameter



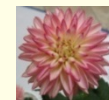
■ B -(#2), over 6 to 8 inches in diameter



■ BB -(#3), over 4 to 6 inches in diameter



■ M -(#4), up to 4 inches in diameter



Classifying Dahlias

■ **FORM**

- The mature petals (from mid-section of flower) are used to determine the form.
- The **20 classifications of form** recognized by the ADS are as follows:
 - Six forms are associated with each of the five size categories
 - **Second number indicates form (1-5)**
 - **Formal decorative-0, Informal decorative-1**
 - **Semi-cactus-2, Cactus-3, Incurved cactus-4**
 - **Lacinated-5**
 - Plus 14 additional forms

Dahlia Forms: (Size AA (>10") through M (4"))

- **Formal Decorative (FD-0)**

- Ray florets (petals) are flat, partially revolute (petal edges roll back), or partially involute (petal edges roll forward). The petals are uniform and regularly arranged, tending to curve toward the stem.



Dahlia Forms (Size AA (>10”) through M (4”))

Informal Decorative – (ID #1)

Ray florets are twisted, or curled, or wavy creating an affect that the petals are not flat. The petals may be partially revolute with their arrangement appearing irregular.



Dahlia Forms: (Size AA (>10”) through M (4”))

■ Semi-Cactus-(SC-2)

- The ray florets are broad at the base straight, incurved or recurved and the ray florets revolute for **up to one half of their length**. **Fully revolute (touching) for one quarter of their length**



Dahlia Forms: (Size AA (>10”) through M (4”))

■ **Straight Cactus (C-3)**

- The ray florets revolute **for more than one half of their length**; they also may be pointed, straight, or recurved, radiating in all directions from the center of the flower head.



Dahlia Forms (Size AA (>10”) through M (4”))

■ Incurved Cactus- (IC-4)

- These dahlias also have ray florets that are **curved for more than one half of the length** but the pointed petals have a pronounced curvature toward the center of the flower head.



Dahlia Forms (Size AA (>10”) through M (4”))

■ **Laciniated – (LC-5)**

- The split or laciniation should be in proportion to the ray floret length. There should be an overall twisting in the area of the split involute or revolute ray florets, to give an overall fringed effect.



Dahlia Forms (14 additional)

- **Ball-** BA #60-over 3.5 inches in diameter
 - fully double flowers, ball shaped or slightly flattened at the face, and the ray florets are blunt, rounded, or indented, involute for most of their length, fully involute for about one half their length, and normally displayed in a spiral arrangement.



Dahlia Forms (14 additional)

Min Ball- MB #61
diameter



over 2 to 3.5 inches in

Pom- P#62

up to 2 inches in diameter

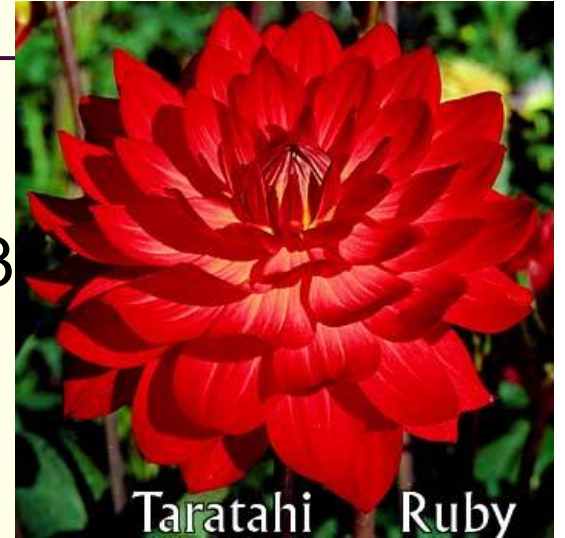


Dahlia Forms (14 additional)

Stellar-ST #70



Waterlily-WL #73



Peony-PE #80



Anemone- AN #82



Dahlia Forms (14 additional)

Collarette- CO #90



Single-S # 96



Mingon Single-MS
#97 up to 2 inches in
diameter



Orchette- OT
#94



Orchid- O-#92



Dahlia Forms (14 additional)

Novelty Open- NO-#86



Novelty Fully Double- NX-#76



Classifying Dahlias

COLOR: (all but blue)

The ADS recognizes 15 different color or color combinations of dahlias. They are:

- 1) White
- 2) Yellow
- 3) Orange
- 4) Pink
- 5) Dark Pink
- 6) Red
- 7) Dark Red
- 8) Lavender
- 9) Purple
- 10) Light Blend - a blending of the lighter tints and tones of pink, yellow, lavender, and other pastels
- 11) Bronze
- 12) Flame
- 13) Dark Blend
- 14) Variegated - where two or more colors appear on the face of the bloom either in dots, splashes, stripes
- 15) Bicolor - blooms with two distinctly clear and sharply separated color

Test Your Self

- Based on the classification system used by the ADS, what dahlia would have the lowest number (consider size, form and color)?