

AMARYLLIS CARE GUIDE



STARTING THE BULB

Choose the Right Container

- » Use a container that is slightly wider (about 1") than the bulb. Amaryllis bulbs prefer to be a little pot bound and will grow better in a tighter space.

Pre-soak the Bulb

- » Soaking the bulb for a few hours before potting will help to hydrate the roots and give a head start to the growing process.

Potting Mix

- » Plant the bulb in a peat-free, well-draining potting mix, leaving the top third of the bulb sitting above the soil level when you plant it.

WATER

Water sparingly until the first shoots emerge from the bulb. Once there is green growth, water the amaryllis whenever the top inch of soil feels dry. Avoid letting the bulb sit in wet soil, and avoid pouring water down into the crown of the bulb. As your bulb grows larger and has more roots, it may dry out more frequently.

CONTINUED CARE

To keep the bulb healthy and flowering from year to year, it is important to feed the bulb while it is growing. To feed, use a balanced liquid fertilizer every couple weeks. A second option is incorporating a slow release fertilizer when you pot the bulb. The fertilizer replenishes the energy stored in the bulb, so it can flower again the following year.

Once the bulb has finished flowering and begins to dieback, cut off all the spent flowers but continue watering and fertilizing. After a few months, the leaves will go brown. At this point, stop fertilizing and watering to allow the bulb to go into dormancy.

LIGHT

Place the pot in a bright windowsill, one that receives at least 4 hours of sunlight. Be sure to turn the pot regularly too, because amaryllis grows towards the light and turning the pot will keep the stem straight.

FLOWERING

Amaryllis should flower in six to eight weeks from planting.

STORAGE

To store the bulb during its dormant period, gently remove the bulb from the pot and remove as much of the dirt as possible without damaging the papery layers or roots. Place the bulb in a container with perlite until it is time to replant in the winter again. For container selection, plastic or glass is best so it does not absorb and hold moisture.

Store the container for 6 weeks in a cold, dark spot (40°-50° F). In cool climates, an unheated shed or garage is perfect!

BOTANY

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