

Amaryllis

Hippeastrum hybrids



The Amaryllis is a spectacular winter blooming bulb that provides beautiful indoor color! They are often given as holiday gifts. Amaryllis have smooth, lily-like flowers, sometimes 8 – 10” across. They bloom in winter or spring in clusters of three or four blossoms atop 1-2’ stems just as the dark strap-shaped leaves arise from the bulbs. Most bulbs send up a second flower stalk when the first one begins to fade.

PLANTING

Plant one bulb to a pot, allowing 2 inches of space between bulb and pot. The pot should be not more than 2 times the diameter of the bulb. And, at least 1/3 of the bulb should be visible above soil surface.

LIGHT & TEMPERATURE

The Amaryllis needs at least four hours of direct sunlight a day, night temperatures of 60° to 65° F and day temperatures of 70° or higher. Keep plants cool and out of direct sun while in bloom.

WATERING & FERTILIZING

Water only once immediately after planting then wait until the stalk appears before watering again. Keep moist and fertilize monthly until leaves turn yellow in late summer. Then, reduce water and omit fertilizer until about a month before flowers are desired.

RE-BLOOMING

How to get your Amaryllis to re-bloom each year:

1. When the last flower has faded, trim flower stalk near top of bulb. You may see some sap run from the cut. This is normal.
2. In late winter, after your flower’s growth phase, give it as much sunlight as possible.
3. In spring, as soon as the danger of frost has passed, move your amaryllis outdoors. You may notice some leaves wither and die as it adjusts, but new ones will grow.
4. Choose a sunny area where you can water the plant daily.
5. Your amaryllis needs a dormant period. If you want flowers for the holidays, begin dormancy by mid-August. Withhold water and move it to a cooler location (around 55 degrees). You can also leave your amaryllis outdoors well into autumn. In that case, stop fertilizing in late September and bring it indoors before the end of October.
6. Either leave bulb in pot or remove it and wash the soil off roots.



7. Keep the bulb in cool storage until you see a new flower stalk emerging (usually 8 to 10 weeks).
8. Although not necessary for blooming, if you move the bulb to a warmer spot (70 to 80 degrees) for 3 weeks, you'll encourage leaves to emerge at the same time the flower stalk is developing.
9. Repot the bulb in fresh soil!

REPOTTING

You may need to repot your bulb every three to four years. At this point, smaller side bulbs may have developed. These can be broken away from the main bulb and potted and grown in a sunny location. It may take two or three years to see blooms on these.

Amaryllis will keep for a long time. If you provide the conditions it needs for growth and dormancy, the bulb will get larger and multiply. Large bulbs may even produce up to three flower stalks. And, some may bloom in both summer and winter if temperature and growing conditions are ideal.

SPECIAL NOTE

Seed-grown bulbs are sold by color. Superior varieties that have been propagated vegetatively are sold by name. Among the latter are:

- Appleblossom (bluish-pink)
- Beautiful Lady (salmon orange)
- Fire Dance (bright red)
- Scarlet Red (deep scarlet)
- White Giant (snowy white).