



Amaryllis Planting Guide

About Amaryllis

Amaryllis is one of the most magnificent bulb plants you can grow indoors. Their colorful, dinner plate-sized flowers are held high above the strap-like foliage on sturdy stems that grow up to 24 inches high. The word Amaryllis comes from the Greek word for "sparkling". And they do just that, brightening up a spring lawn, or adding color indoors on a cold, drab winter's day.

When to Plant

Pot Amaryllis bulbs in mid-November for bloom during the Christmas holidays.

Where to Plant

Amaryllis bulbs should be planted in well-draining pots which are approximately 1 to 2 inches wider than the diameter of the bulb.

How to Plant

Add a small amount of potting soil to the bottom of the pot. Center the bulb in the middle of the pot. Then add additional potting soil, firming it around the roots and bulb. Allow 2 inches between the bulb and the edge of the pot. The upper 1/2 of the bulb should be above the surface of the soil.

Tamp the potted bulb gently to settle it into the pot and to firm the soil. Mature Amaryllis are heavy and will topple if not properly seated in the soil. Water well and place in a cool (60 F) location. Water sparingly until growth appears.

Caring for Amaryllis

When growth begins, water more frequently, move the plant to a warm, sunny window and apply a water-soluble fertilizer every 2 to 4 weeks. When the flower bud appears, turn the pot daily so that the flower-bearing stalk grows straight.

When blooms fade, cut off the tubular flower stem near the top of the bulb, leaving the foliage to continue growing. Water as usual and apply a water-soluble fertilizer every four weeks.

Once the danger of frost has passed, you may move your Amaryllis bulb outdoors to your garden where it can enjoy the summer sun. Be sure to continue your fertilizer program every four weeks as this is necessary for the next round of indoor forcing.

In early autumn, bring your Amaryllis bulb inside and allow it to completely dry out and rest for 6 weeks. Then repot your Amaryllis bulb in new soil and start the process all over again.