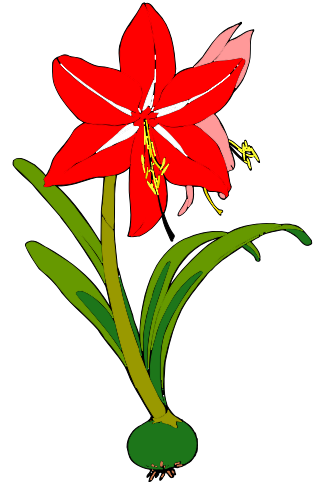


Amaryllis Care

The amaryllis provides a dramatic show of color during dreary winter months. Although each plant may only produce one cluster of two to four blooms, individual blossoms can reach up to 8 inches in diameter at their peak!

How to Plant: Plant your bulb with the top third of the bulb above the soil. Use a pot only 1"-2" inches larger in diameter than the base of the bulb and make sure the pot has a drainage hole. (Amaryllis likes to be pot-bound.) A quality potting mix is a well-draining yet moisture-retentive medium.



Water the bulb thoroughly after planting. Then, water **very sparingly** until the bulb begins to sprout. Overwatering at this stage is the main reason amaryllis fails to thrive. Too much moisture too often can cause the roots or the bulb to rot. Place your pot in a bright, cool (approx 65-70 degrees) room.

Flowering Period: Bulbs will flower in 7-9 weeks as a general rule. A blooming amaryllis does NOT need a lot of heat or sunlight - too much will cause the flowers to wither quickly. Rotate the plant every day or so to prevent it from leaning toward the light too much. If the plant gets too top heavy, support it with a stake or weight the container with small pebbles.

After Bloom: After the plant is through flowering, cut the stalks a few inches above the bulb. Place the amaryllis in a bright location and keep the soil moist but not soggy. It's also a good idea to fertilize it once a month with a complete houseplant fertilizer. You want to keep the plant growing well, in order to build up enough energy for next year's flowers.

During the summer, you can move the pot outside to a partial sunny location. Water regularly and continue fertilizing with bulb fertilizer through summer. When the leaves begin to yellow in early fall, remove any dead leaves and store in a dry, cool (40-50 degrees) dimly lit place. Withhold water and fertilizer. This starts the resting or dormant stage that the bulb needs in order to flower again.

After about 2 months (early Nov.), remove any dead tissue from the bulb and re-plant in a clean pot and new soil. Water thoroughly and place the pot in a warm, sunny window, starting the whole cycle over again!