



Indoor Flowering Bulbs: Amaryllis/Hippeastrum

gardeners call it amaryllis...

- But its true name is *Hippeastrum*, a genus which includes 50 – 70 species and a plethora of hybrids and named cultivars.
- All of them will give you spectacular, long- lasting blooms during the holiday season and, with very little work, many years of beauty.
- Amaryllis prefer even day and night temperatures and a location with bright indirect light while blooming. They are rarely visited by pests or diseases, do not require much watering and are easily cared for – what more could you ask?

potting your amaryllis bulb

- You will notice that the basal roots of the bulb are dry and shriveled. Get your plant off to a good start by hydrating the roots for about an hour before planting. Simply moisten the roots by resting the base of the bulb on a small jar full of tepid water so that only the stringy roots are submerged.
- Choose a deep pot large enough to allow a 1” space around your bulb. A larger pot may stay too moist and lead to bulb rot since roots will not develop until after flowering. Once established, Amaryllis prefer to be pot-bound.
- Smaller bulbs may be grouped together in a pot for a colorful display.
- Fill the bottom of your pot with well-drained potting soil – we use Espoma Organic Potting Mix with a handful of Espoma Soil Perfector added for better drainage. Thoroughly mix in 2 teaspoons of Espoma Bulb-tone or other slow-release fertilizer.
- Make a small mound in the center of the soil and fan the roots over this mound. Holding the bulb steady and upright, continue filling the pot until two-thirds of the bulb is covered, firming the soil around the roots as you go.
- The top third of the bulb – the “neck” – should remain above the soil line.
- Water the plant thoroughly with warm water and place in a bright, warm (68°-70°), well-ventilated place, free from drafts. Bottom heat will encourage faster rooting.

care of your newly potted amaryllis

- After that first watering, do NOT water your Amaryllis until the bud shoot appears. Keep the plant in its bright, warm location.
- Once the bud shoot emerges, the plant may be moved to its final location with bright, indirect sunlight.
- Depending on the cultivar, your Amaryllis will bloom approximately five weeks after potting.
- While the plant is in bud and bloom, water just enough to keep the soil moist.

amaryllis from bloom to re-bloom

- After your Amaryllis is done blooming, you will have a leafy, carefree, green houseplant for awhile. Keep it indoors until the last frost, then move it outdoors. Plants placed outside will need protection from hot afternoon sun.
- During the spring and summer the leaves will grow vigorously. Feed with a balanced liquid fertilizer and water regularly. Bring indoors along with your other houseplants and tropicals before mid-October to avoid the first frost.
- Amaryllis will require a dormant period in order to re-bloom. They will need to be in a cool (55°), dim environment for eight to ten weeks. Allow the leaves to die back naturally and do not fertilize or water.
- Once the cool period is finished, cut off any remaining old leaves and water thoroughly. Repotting and dividing may be done at this point but only if your plant has outgrown its pot, since Amaryllis prefer to be left undisturbed for at least 2 – 3 years before repotting.
- Move the plants to their former location of bright, indirect sunlight and wait for the bud shoot to appear, usually in mid-January
- To promote holiday blooming, you will need to bring your plant indoors to begin the cool period in August. The re-blooming process will then start on Halloween!
- If you have several different Amaryllis and would like to have a continuous train of bloom through the winter months, simply stagger their cooling periods by two or three weeks so they will “wake up” one after the other.
- Mature Amaryllis may also reward you with a bonus repeat bloom in July with just a little extra love and fertilization.