



Amaryllis Care & Culture

Don't be fooled by the fabulously exotic looking blooms, growing amaryllis is EASY! Here's a little guide to get you started.

SOAK IT: Encourage roots by soaking the bulb's roots before planting. Place the bulb in a saucer and cover the roots with a half-inch of warm water for a couple of hours.

POT IT: Choose a container about ONE inch larger than the bulb with a drainage hole (even if it means planting in a plastic container and nesting it in a decorative cache pot). Fill it the bottom of the pot with potting mix and set the bulb on top (or bulbs, 3 amaryllis in a pot together are unforgettable!) Adjust soil levels so that you have the bulb(s) where you want and add just enough potting mix so that the top third of the bulb is exposed. Water the pot draining off excess water.

CARE FOR IT: Place the planted bulbs in a cool, bright location. Allow the soil to dry out between watering. As the bulb grows, it will need water more often. If you nest the planting pot inside a cache pot or have a container sitting in a saucer, make sure the planting pot doesn't sit in water for extended periods of time after watering. Dump the excess water within an hour or so. Remove faded flowers promptly to increase the life of the remaining flowers. After flowering, cut off the faded flowers in order to prevent seed formation (takes too much energy from the bulb), and allow the leaves to continue to grow and develop. Provide regular water during this time letting the soil dry somewhat between watering. After blooming is finished, put the plant in your sunniest indoor location.

SUPPORT IT: Provide support if flower stems get too long and start to flop over (usually a sign of not enough light) by staking them with plant stakes and twine or raffia.

KEEP IT: It's possible to get the plant to re-bloom the following year for the holidays but it is a bit of a process. Look for information at this website: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/flowers/growing-and-caring-for-amaryllis/> At this website you will find instructions for keeping amaryllis in the pot and getting them to re-bloom when they want to which is springtime: <http://thedailysouth.southernliving.com/2009/01/30/amaryllis-after/> Amaryllis are hardy to about 10°F, which means most of the time they are hardy here, and therefore you can also plant them out in the garden in late spring where they can naturalize and become spring bloomers. Plant them 5-6" deep in a well-drained spot and, in fall, mulch them well. Apply balanced fertilizer monthly fall through April.



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