



THANK YOU FROM THE GARDEN CLUB OF DENVER FOR YOUR ORDER FROM OUR AMAZING AMARYLLIS BULB SALE

AMARYLLIS PLANTING GUIDE

Your Amazing Amaryllis is the ultimate holiday and winter blooming flower making a powerful statement with its beautiful trumpet flowers from these impressively large bulbs.

The healthy outer skin of Amaryllis bulbs may appear papery, shriveled or rust-brown from having been washed and dried after harvest. Bulbs are sized when they are harvested. They shrink naturally as they dry, and plump up again once potted and rehydrated. Each variety has a varied amount of existing roots.

Store the bulbs in a cool, dry spot (at about 50°F) with good air circulation and low humidity, away from heat, frost and strong sunlight. Do not put bulbs in plastic bags as the bulbs cannot breathe.

Potting the bulbs

Pot individual bulbs in well-draining, cozy pots in sterile, neutral pH potting soil with at least the top quarter or third of the bulb above the surface of the soil to avoid water collection in the sprout. A cozy pot means there shouldn't be much more than an inch of space between the bulb and the pot. Amaryllis flower better when their roots are pot bound.

- 1) Fill pot with soil, about 1/3 of the way up. If a pot has large drainage holes, then you place a single layer of a coffee filter in the bottom of the pot prior to adding soil.
- 2) Place the bulb root-side down with the roots resting on the soil. Add more soil to bring bulb to desired height in pot, so that the shoulder of the bulb will be even, to just above, with the top of the pot. The leaf spout of the bulb should be above the pot.
- 3) Fill in the rest of the pot with soil, gently pressing the soil around the sides of the bulb, leaving 1/3 of the bulb exposed. You do not cover the bulb. Do not bury the bulb or it will rot.
- 4) Water around the sides to initiate the waking up process, giving a good drink to the soil to get it moist. **Never put water on the bulb itself and never ever into the spout.** Always water around the sides of the bulb. Usually no water is needed after first watering until the bulb sprouts, then water very lightly, only around the sides, as needed. Do not mist with water.

Growing Your Bulbs

Place the pot in direct sunlight/sunny windowsill at room temperature with good air circulation and normal to low humidity. Brighter sunlight creates the best coloration and a

more proportionate plant (ie: shorter stem). If you provide your amaryllis with too little light, the flower stalk will grow excessively tall and may even fall over. Avoid placing the pot in an area with cold drafts.

Once the Amaryllis starts to grow, water evenly, lightly and consistently around the base of the bulb at soil level (*never mist*). Make sure to discard any collected water in the pot saucer to avoid root or bulb rot. When the flower stalk begins to emerge, rotate the pot about one-half turn every few days so it will grow straight.

Most varieties yield two, and sometimes even three, flowering stems in succession. Sword-like foliage may appear before, during or after flowering. You may need to install structural support, like a support stake, for the huge flowering stems and help to keep it balanced in its pot. You may also top dress pots with stones to weigh down the pot to prevent it from tipping over when the plant is in full bloom. If the stalks grow too tall, you may cut them as Amaryllis are among the best, most long lasting of cut flowers. But do keep the pot going for a second, and sometimes even a third stem!. After the flowers have faded, cut them off to prevent unnecessary seed formation.

To prolong the blooms, keep the pot away from heat and move from direct sunlight.

If you want to display more than one Amaryllis together, sink individual pots at the same rate of growth in a basket or cachepot. The pots can be covered with green Spanish moss or preserved reindeer moss. It looks beautiful, and the Amaryllis may still be grown in cozy pots that are best for them from a horticultural perspective.

Trouble Shooting

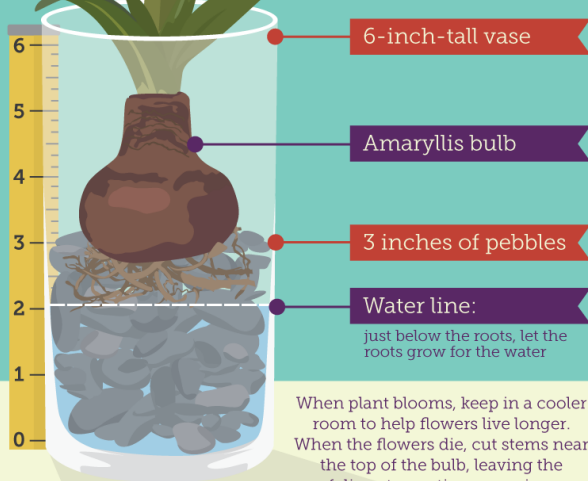
Many factors will affect the bloom time, including: temperature, amount of light, water, and other factors, but most Amaryllis will bloom 6-8 weeks from being planted.

If an Amaryllis bulb is slow to wake up out of dormancy, apply bottom heat by placing the pots on a seed growing mat, heating pad or food warmer.

Growing Amaryllis in Pebbles and Water

If you intend to do this, please consider how tall Amaryllis stems stretch, and how heavy their flowers become. Choose a sturdy container that is more like a big glass hurricane candle cylinder than a vase (no pedestal or foot). Nothing too fragile or tippy. The general method is to place about four inches of river stones in the bottom of the cylinder and to place the Amaryllis bulb, roots down, on top of the stones. Then, carefully fill river stones in around the bulb and over the bulb, leaving the top quarter to third of the bulb uncovered. Very carefully add water, making sure that no water collects in the sprout, or nose, of the bulb. Only fill the cylinder with two or three inches of water because the water cannot touch the root base of the bulb or it will rot. You must keep the water level even and consistent and must never allow the roots to dry out. The water can become funky as old roots decompose. Amaryllis grown in water are not suitable for more than one season of growth and should be discarded after blooming.

Forcing an AMARYLLIS BULB



When plant blooms, keep in a cooler room to help flowers live longer. When the flowers die, cut stems near the top of the bulb, leaving the foliage to continue growing.