

Amaryllis

Quick Tips:

- Planting Period: October – end of April
- Flowering Period: Late December – end of June
- Flowering Time: 7-10 weeks
- Larger bulbs produce more flowers
- Always store un-planted bulbs in a cool place between 40-50° F

Amaryllis – One of a Kind

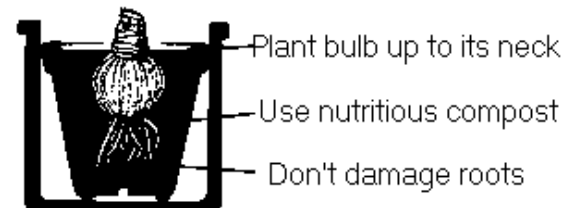
Of all flowering bulbs, Amaryllis are the easiest to bring to bloom. This can be accomplished indoors or out, and over an extended period of time. The Amaryllis originated in South America's tropical regions and has the botanical name Hippeastrum. The large flowers and ease with which they can be brought to bloom make Amaryllis popular and in demand worldwide. The Amaryllis comes in many beautiful varieties including various shades of red, white, pink, salmon, and orange. There are also many striped and multicolored varieties, usually combining shades of pink or red with white.

Preparation for Planting

The base and roots of the bulb should be placed in lukewarm water for a few hours. Remember, if you cannot plant the bulbs immediately after receiving them, store them at a cool temperature between 40-50 degrees F.

Planting

Plant bulbs in a nutritious potting compost; many are available pre-mixed. Plant the bulb up to its neck in the potting compost, being careful not to damage the roots. Press the soil down firmly to set the bulb securely in place after planting.



Placement and Watering

Plant the bulb, or place the potted bulb in a warm place with direct light since heat is necessary for the development of the stems. The ideal temperature is 68 – 70 degrees F. Water sparingly until the stem appears, then, as the bud and leaves appear, gradually water more. At this point, the stem will grow rapidly and flowers will develop after it has reached full growth.

Flowering Period

As a general rule, bulbs will flower in 7-10 weeks. In winter the flowering time will be longer than in spring. Set up your planting schedule between October and April with this in mind.

After-Flowering. After the Amaryllis has stopped flowering, it can be made to flower again. Cut the old flowers from the stem after flowering and when the stem starts to sag, cut it back to the top of the bulb.

Leaf Growth and Development. Continue to water and fertilize as normal all summer, or for at least 5-6 months, allowing the leaves to fully develop and grow. When the leaves begin to yellow, which normally occurs in the early fall, cut the leaves back to about 2 inches from the top of the bulb and remove the bulb from the soil.

Bulb Storage. Clean the bulb and place it in a cool (40-50° F), dark place such as the crisper of your refrigerator for a **minimum of 6 weeks**. **Caution:** Do not store Amaryllis bulbs in a refrigerator that contains apples, this will sterilize the bulbs. Store the bulbs for a minimum of 6 weeks.

Plant Again. After 6 weeks you may remove bulbs whenever you would like to plant them. Plant bulbs 8 weeks before you would like them to bloom.