

Amaryllis Bulbs

History

When it comes to planting flowering bulbs, Amaryllis are by far the easiest to bring to bloom. This can be done indoors and out. Amaryllis originated in South America's tropical regions and has the botanical name of Hippeastrum. Amaryllis comes in many beautiful varieties including various shades of red, white, pink, salmon and orange.



Preparing To Plant

After you select the bulbs you wish to plant, you must first soak the base and roots of the bulb in lukewarm water for a few hours. IF you cannot plant the bulbs right away after buying them, remember to place them at a cool temperature between 40-50 degrees.

Planting

Amaryllis bulbs are best planted in a nutritious potting compost. Plant the bulb up to its neck in the compost and press the soil down firmly to set the bulb securely in place.

Make sure you plant the bulb in a warm place with direct light since heat is very necessary for the development of the stems. The ideal temperature is 68 to 70 degrees F. Water sparingly until the stem appears, then as the bud and leaves appear, water more.

Bulbs will flower in 7 - 10 weeks, in the winter, the flowering time will be longer than in the spring. For continuous bloom, plant at an interval of 2 weeks for stunning color in your home or garden.

After Bloom Care

After the Amaryllis has stopped flowering, it is possible to have it bloom 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.

Continue to water and fertilize all summer (or at least 5 - 6 months), allowing the leaves to fully develop and grow. When the leaves begin to yellow, cut the leaves back to about 2 inches from the top of the bulb and remove the bulb from the soil.

Clean the bulb and place it in a cool (40-50 degrees F), dark place such as the crisper in your refrigerator for a minimum of 6 weeks. **DO NOT**, store amaryllis bulbs in the refrigerator if it contains apples, this **WILL** sterilize the bulbs.

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