

AMARYLLIS



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Amaryllis (*Hippeastrum*) are very easy to grow. With minimal effort, they can be induced to flower year after year.

Sometimes the bulbs come pre-planted. If your bulb is not, plant the bulb so that one-third of the bulb stays above the soil level. Choose a pot that allows about one inch of space between the bulb and the rim of the pot.

Once planted, the bulb should be placed in an area of moderate light and warmth. Keep it somewhat dry until the leaves and/or flower bud appear. When that happens, move the plant to a sunnier location. Turn the pot daily so the foliage doesn't grow to one side. During this active growth period, the bulb should be watered more.

Sometimes the bulb will send up more than one flower stalk. After flowering has ceased, continue watering and feeding. Foliage is necessary for storing food for next year's bloom. Keep the plant inside until danger of frost has passed in the spring. At that time, the plant can be moved outside, sinking the pot up to its rim in the garden. A sunny spot is best, although there should be some protection from high wind and heat. The soil should be well drained and there *must* be a hole in the bottom of the pot. Water and feed consistently all summer. Fertilizing is the key to next year's bloom.

Bring the plant inside before the first frost. Store in a cool, somewhat dark location for 8 to 12 weeks. The foliage will die back and can be removed. Do not water or fertilize during this dormant period. After 8 to 12 weeks, bring the pot back into light and warmth and start to water. Soon the cycle will begin again. Repot only when the roots and/or bulb have outgrown the pot.

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