



After Blooming Care

Once the blooms have faded, you can prepare your amaryllis to flower again next year by giving it the right care. Remove faded blooms and trim flower stem at the base. Continue to water and fertilize (with houseplant fertilizer) for approximately 6 months, allowing the leaves to grow and produce energy which will be stored in the bulb for the next blooming time. When the leaves turn yellow, trim them to 2" from the top of the bulb. Remove the bulb from the soil, clean and store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area (4 - 10 °C) for 8 to 10 weeks. In October, remove the old roots and pot up the bulb again in fresh potting soil.

You will notice newly purchased bulbs provide the best flowering results. This is because they have just completed a three-year process of preparation. Amaryllis bulbs will be more expensive than other flower bulbs, but they are more than worth it!



A Bulb Bursting with Energy!

In recent years, amaryllis have become a trendy bulb and one that can easily produce flowers even without being planted. This big bulb is packed with so much energy that it can bloom without being planted!

Waxed Amaryllis Bulbs

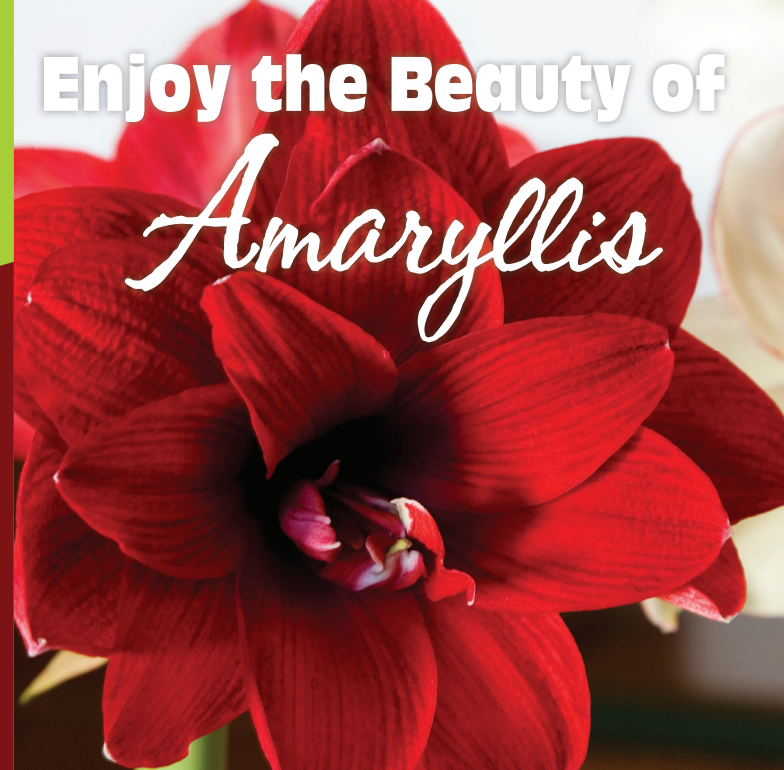
An alternative to planting your amaryllis bulb is a wax amaryllis. The bulbs are hand dipped in wax to seal in all the moisture the bulb needs to give you 2 to 3 stems of amazing blooms. Blooming starts in 4 to 6 weeks. When finished blooming, simply compost or recycle.

Gorgeous arrangements can be created with a wax amaryllis. Use various accessories to make your own creative amaryllis arrangement.



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Enjoy the Beauty of *Amaryllis*



Planting Guide From Bulbs To Beauty



Plant Bulbs in Time

Brighten your winter days by planting the easy to grow Amaryllis. The beautiful blooms are spectacular and you will have weeks of enjoyment with little effort.

Amaryllis (latin name *Hippeastrum*) are native to the tropics of South America. The most popular types are the large flowering in various shades of red, salmon, pink and white.

Planting period: October to December.

Flowering: November to February.

It is recommended to plant the bulbs immediately after purchase. If you are delayed in planting, you can store the bulbs in a well-ventilated area away from ripening fruit, where the temperature is approximately 9 °C (50 °F).

How to Get Started:

- Bulbs are available in a range of sizes from 24/26 cm to 40+ cm. The size is measured by the bulb circumference. The larger the bulb the more stems of flowers it will produce.
- Buy bulbs that feel firm to the touch.
- If you purchased several bulbs, plant them at intervals of fourteen days. This way you can enjoy the beautiful blooms throughout the winter months.
- Select a container that is 1" larger than the bulb with holes at the bottom for drainage and fill it with fresh potting soil.



Planting

Select a container in which the bulb and its roots can easily fit, but is not too roomy. If you can fit your finger between the side of the pot and the bulb, the pot is just the right size.

The container should also have good drainage holes so that excess water can drain out properly. Fill half of your container with moistened potting soil. Next, place the bulb and continue to fill with moist soil around the bulb. Leave the top third of the bulb exposed above the soil level. After planting, press down firmly on the potting soil. Water well and keep the soil barely moist until growth begins.



Location and Care

The most important factor for stem development is heat, so place the planted container in a bright warm area (21 °C) away from any direct heat sources, such as vents. Once the stem starts to emerge from the bulb, start watering regularly to keep the soil moist. When the bud and leaves appear, your amaryllis will need to be checked daily for watering needs. The stem will now grow rapidly and once mature, the blooms will start to unfurl.

Controlling the Flowering Period

Amaryllis bulbs are available until January. Their flowering period depends on various factors including variety and heat. There will be about eight to twelve weeks between planting and flowering. If you plant the bulbs at intervals, you can enjoy Amaryllis blooms for months!

Tips:

- Make sure about one third of the bulb is above the soil level.
- Use fresh potting soil.
- Remove faded flowers promptly so remaining flowers will bloom longer and the bulbs will not invest any energy into the production of seeds.
- Amaryllis will grow towards the direction of the light. Make sure to carefully turn the pot regularly.
- Once the blooms unfurl, move the container to an area away from direct sunlight and heat sources to extend the flowering period.