

# AMARYLLIS

## Planting & Care Instructions

### PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Choose a firm-fleshed bulb and make sure you have potting soil that is water retentive yet drains well, such as natural-organic Gardener & Bloome Potting Soil.

Select a container with good drainage (a 6 inch minimum for our top size bulbs).

If container is too large, growth may go into leaves and roots instead of luscious blooms.

Trim off any bruised, dried out roots.

Place some soil in the boom of the container (some gardeners like to cover the drain hole(s) with a single piece of newspaper, coffee filter or paper toweling to contain dry potting soil).

Hold the bulb in the center of the pot and fill in soil around roots until roots are covered.

Continue filling in until 2/3 to 3/4 of the bulb is covered.

Water around the bulb using luke warm water. If soil level drops, add more soil to bring the level up and then re-water. Make sure water drains through the boom of the container and then set container out of direct sunlight in a comfortably warm room (ideally 70 to 74 degrees).

### OTHER TIPS

Once soil is moist, your amaryllis needs very little water until leaves begin to emerge; when leaves grow to about 12 inches, begin rotating container regularly so stems will not bend towards the sun; if (or when) stems grow beyond 18 or 20 inches, stake them and consider placing small pebbles over the top of the container to weight it down. Another tip: place one pot inside another taller one to help balance the tall stalks and leaves.

If you want to take care of your amaryllis bulb so that it will produce blooms year after year, read on!

After the plant is through flowering, cut off the spent bloom stalks, and keep the rest of the plant growing by regular watering and by feeding every three weeks. After the last frost, place bulb (pot and all) outside into the ground. Keep the soil level of the ground even with the container top and spread some bulb fertilizer around the container in about a 12 inch radius.

Watering and rain will carry the nutrients to the roots of the bulb. Also it is important to leave the foliage on the plant as it helps your amaryllis gain strength for its next blooming cycle.

Before the first frost in early October, take the container up, remove any excess soil, and place it in a dry, cool (60-65 degrees) place. Stop watering and discontinue feeding. Leaves will begin to yellow and die back. Let the leaves age this way and when they are all yellow, cut them off. Continue to keep pot dry until fresh green growth begins to appear and the cycle begins again.

Note that on occasion, the bulb may not produce a bloom for one season. If this happens, continue to follow directions and blooms should appear the following season.