

CARE GUIDE:

Amaryllis

Don't be fooled by the fabulously exotic-looking blooms - growing Amaryllis is easy!

SOAK: Before planting, place bulb in a saucer and cover roots with 1/2" warm water. Soak for several hours to stimulate root growth.

POT: Choose a container about 1" larger than the bulb with a drainage hole (can use a plastic pot nested in a decorative pot). Fill bottom of pot with potting mix and set one or more bulbs on top. Three amaryllis together make a stunning display! Add more potting mix, leaving the top 1/3 of



Hippeastrum

the bulb exposed. Water, draining off excess.

CARE: Place the potted bulbs in a cool, bright location. Allow soil to dry out between waterings. As the bulb grows, it will need water more often. If the planting pot is inside a cache pot, or in a saucer, make sure it doesn't sit in water for long. Dump excess within an hour or so. Remove faded blooms to extend the life of remaining flowers. After flowering is done, cut off faded flowers. This prevents seed formation, which takes energy from the bulb, and allows the leaves to continue growing. Put bulb pot in the sunniest indoor spot you have. Water regularly, letting soil dry somewhat between waterings.

FERTILIZER: From spring through summer, feed every 2 weeks with a balanced fertilizer mixed at about 3/4 of the recommended rate. In fall and winter, feed monthly.

SUPPORT: Stake flower stems with plant stakes and twine or raffia if the flower stems get too long and start to flop over.

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Reblooming

YOUR AMARYLLIS

It's possible to rebloom an amaryllis bulb, but it is a labor of love.

INSIDE: See extension.umn.edu/houseplants/amaryllis for detailed instructions.

OUTSIDE: Amaryllis is hardy to around 10°F. In this area, it can be planted outside in late spring, and will become a spring bloomer. Plant 5-6" deep in a well-drained, sunny spot, mulch them well in the fall. For more info, go to thedailysouth.southernliving.com/2009/01/30/amaryllis-after/.

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