

# AMARYLLIS

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Amaryllis are spectacular flowers that will provide a splash of color indoors when it's lacking outside. Forcing these bulbs is easy and uplifting at a time of year we might otherwise not be feeling as energetic as we do in spring. Here are some tips to growing great blooms, indoors for the winter successfully.

## FORCING INDOORS –

### 1. Pot Selection

- Amaryllis like to be “crowded” in their pot. Choose a pot for your bulbs that is only 1” and no more than 2” larger than your bulb.
- Any decorative pot will work, just be sure that there is a hole in the bottom to allow for drainage.
- Ceramic pots work better as they provide more weight to counter the stems and flowers as they develop, keeping them from falling over. I like the clean, simple look of terra cotta.
- Using a “bulb pan” or “fern pot” is also preferable to a standard or even taller “rose-pot” style container as these can add to the imbalanced weight distribution when flowers develop.

### 2. Plant Properly

- Add a layer of pea gravel to the base of your pot to enhance drainage and add additional weight as counter balance.
- Plant using an all-purpose potting soil that provides good drainage (regular garden soil does not provide adequate drainage for this purpose)
- Plant your bulb so that approximately 1/3 of your bulb, pointed end up is sticking out of the soil

### 3. Provide Proper Water and Light

- After your bulb has been properly planted and the soil has been firmly pressed around your bulb, water it thoroughly so that the soil is evenly wet from top to bottom.
- Place your potted Amaryllis in a sunny location and allow drying out slightly before watering again. Water scarcely until you see growth beginning.
- When you see about 2” of growth, water regularly to maintain soil evenly moist, but not saturated.
- Turn your plant frequently to help the stems grow straight, as it develops

### 4. Care

- Now that you have buds beginning to open, move your Amaryllis to a warm bright location, just not in the direct sun; this will help prolong the blooms on your plant.
- Flowers should appear within 6-8 weeks from planting.

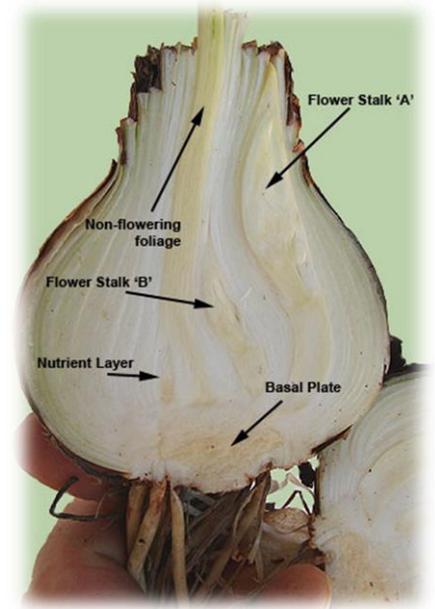


- Continue watering evenly until flowering is done.

## CARE FOR RE-BLOOM NEXT YEAR –

### 1. Step 1

- After flowers have stopped blooming, cut the flower stems on your plant down to about 1" from the top of the bulb. Allow all the leaves to remain as they will help "recharge" nutrients for your bulb to repeat its performance next winter.
- Continue watering regularly, and now begin to feed with an all-purpose liquid fertilizer on a routine basis to strengthen your plant.
- As temperatures move above freezing (<50F at night), you can move your plants outside for the growing season. Keep in Bright light; morning sun is good with protection from hot, afternoon sun.



### 2. Step 2

- In mid to late August, begin reducing water to your plants, allowing them to dry out more and more between watering.
- Allow the foliage to dry down and the plants to go dormant, once the pot dries out completely.
- **TIP:** dry down your plants slowly so you don't kill them off completely. Also, when they complete this process, the bulbs should be firm and not soft when you place them into storage.

### 3. Step 3

- Just before placing your bulbs into storage, cut off all remaining, dead/dried foliage and stems that may be remaining.
- Store your bulbs in a cool, dark, dry place for at least 8 weeks.
- Approximately 6-8 weeks before you want your Amaryllis to bloom again for you, pull them out of storage, and re-pot them using the steps outlined earlier to force again indoors.
- At time of re-potting, your plants may need some of their roots trimmed off. Remove any dry, shriveled roots that may be surrounding healthy, plump roots that you'll want to keep.

