

 *Wentworth Greenhouses* 
Helpful Tips and Information
AMARYLLIS

Hippeastrum, commonly known as Amaryllis, is a true bulb that originated in South America. This tender bulb is very easy to grow and requires little effort to produce a beautiful winter display.

Select a bulb that feels firm and fleshy, like an onion. The larger bulbs will produce more flowers. You can soak the amaryllis roots in lukewarm water for a few hours to get them started. Amaryllis will produce more flowers when they are pot bound so choose a pot accordingly. If your container does not have drainage you should add at least 2 inches of gravel in the bottom. Use a light potting mix and plant your bulb leaving the top half exposed.



Water well and place in a sunny spot. Avoid watering the top of the bulb by watering just the soil area where the bulb meets the soil. Keep your amaryllis warm to help it grow, 65°F-75°F is ideal. Water again only when the top couple inches of soil is dry. Once the leaves and flower stalk begins to grow you will need to water more often. It should take 7 – 10 weeks to bloom.

When the blooms begin to open you can move the plant to a shaded location, this will prolong flowering. Some of the flowers will be quite heavy and may require staking. Snip off each flower as it passes. After all the blooms have gone by cut the entire stalk off at the base.

Move your plant to a nice sunny window and begin fertilizing (Miracle Grow or Seaweed Fish Emulsion). When spring has arrived and the frost has passed move your amaryllis outdoors. They love a bright, filtered light and it is essential to fertilize all summer in order for the plant to bloom again. These plants can be quite drought tolerant, but will not survive wet conditions.

As fall arrives, move your amaryllis back indoors. Sometimes the leaves will begin to yellow and die back. Just cut them off as this happens. Some people will then dig up the bulb, wrap in newspaper, and keep in a cool, dark place. Some amaryllis will remain evergreen. It's good to add a fresh topping of soil if you are not removing the bulb from its container. A cool period, 40°F-55°F, for 8-10 weeks is necessary for the amaryllis to re-bloom. After the cold treatment the cycle begins again.

