

DIY Potted Amaryllis

Growing an Amaryllis is relatively easy if you follow a few basic guidelines. You will need:

- A healthy and plump bulb. (The larger the bulb the more blooms it will produce.)
- A pot that is roughly 2" wider in diameter than the bulb you have chosen. (Ensure that the pot has drainage.) A heavy pot may help prevent the plant becoming too top heavy.
- Amaryllis like to have their roots crowded so do not plant your bulb in too large a container.
- A potting soil that is more on the sandy side than peaty. (Amaryllis hate to be in soggy soils.)

ONCE YOU HAVE SELECTED THE VARIETY YOU LIKE...

- Choose a nice firm bulb with some thick roots remaining & trim off any shrivelled & broken roots.
- Place a small amount of potting soil in the bottom of the pot so that when planting, the top of the bulb is just protruding (1") above the top of the pot.
- Top up the soil around the bulb, leaving 1/3 of the bulb showing above soil level (Amaryllis dislike having moisture around their necks)

Now give your freshly planted Amaryllis a good drink of water. Don't be shy with this first watering as this is the first moisture the bulb will have had in a while.

After this, water sparingly until the buds appear at the tip of the bulb. Once the flower bud starts to emerge, water regularly to keep the soil damp, but not soggy. Your plant may require daily watering once the blooms have opened. Amaryllis plants should be placed in a bright but cool location as warmth will cause the bloom to grow too fast.

The flowers usually open within 6 to 7 weeks, so if you miss this holiday season, they will still be ready for a January show.

