

# Forcing Amaryllis

- Choose a pot that fits the amaryllis bulb snugly, leaving no more than one inch or two between the pot and the bulb. Be sure you have a pot deep enough so that the bulb will have two to three inches of soil between its base and the bottom of the pot. The pot must have a drainage hole. Amaryllis like to be pot bound to flower well.
- Plant the bulb in soilless mix. Leave 1/3-1/2 of the bulb exposed above soil line.
- Water it lightly. The mix should be damp, not wet.
- Place the potted bulb in a cool shaded place (50-60 degree Fahrenheit). Water when the soil dries slightly.
- Check every so often. When you see growth, gradually bring the pot into increasing amounts of light. Keep warm (60 degree Fahrenheit minimum).
- At this point water using a small amount of fertilizer (about quarter-strength). The soil should be moist, not wet. Rotate the plant daily so that it doesn't lean toward the light.
- When the blooms fade, cut back the flower stalk. Continue to water and feed throughout the summer. The leaves are feeding the bulb so you can have blooms again next winter.



In fall decrease the watering frequency and stop fertilizing. When the leaves are completely shriveled, put the potted bulb in a dark resting place. The bulb will need at least 6-8 weeks to rest. Begin watering when you see new green growth and you're ready to start the forcing process all over again.



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