

Growing Holiday Bulbs

AMARYLLIS

Amaryllis are tropical bulbs that bloom indoors in Winter dramatic trumpet-shaped flowers on tall, sturdy stems. Bloom colors range from red to white, with less traditional painted pink, orange, and spider varieties available. Each bulb produces 2–3 stalks with 4–6 flowers per stalk.



POTTING

- **Soak dry roots** in lukewarm water 1–2 hours before planting to hasten growth process (not required).
- **Select a pot** 1–2" larger in diameter than bulb; opt for tight fit.
- **Place a few inches of potting soil** in bottom of pot and place bulb on top so top 1/3 of bulb sits above final soil line.
- **Gently pack soil** between roots + around lower 2/3 of bulb.



LIGHT & LOCATION

- **Bright, indirect light** or medium light required.
- **Rotate pot occasionally** so stalk grows straight.
- **Provide support with a stake** (careful to not pierce bulb).
- **It can take 8–12 weeks to produce a flower.** Hasten growth with a warm location; slow growth by moving to a cooler spot for longer bloom time.



WATER

- **Water well after you first pot up** Amaryllis bulb, then sparingly until growth begins.
- **Water regularly once 3" of growth appears** until bloom.



AFTERCARE

- **When blooms fade**, remove blossom near top of bulb; leave stalk/foilage. Remove stalk when brown; leave all foliage.
- **Water regularly**; apply water-soluble fertilizer every 4 weeks.
- **Once danger of frost is past**, move outdoors for Summer. Continue fertilizing every 4 weeks for next indoor forcing.
- **In early Autumn**, bring Amaryllis inside; allow to fully dry out (several weeks). Cut off dry leaves and let "rest" 6 weeks.
- **Repot bulb in new soil** and start process all over again!



TOXICITY

- All plant parts are toxic and **should be kept away from young children and pets.**

PAPERWHITES

Paperwhites are a type of Narcissus that can be grown indoors easily without a chilling period. Each bulb produces several flower stalks and blooms with a cluster of small, white, star-shaped flowers that are highly fragrant and last a few weeks.



POTTING

- **Plant several bulbs together** in larger, shallow pots but avoid letting bulbs touch each other when planted.
- **Single bulbs may be placed** in small containers.
- **Fill pot halfway with soil**, set bulbs gently in soil, and fill pot, leaving tips visible.
- **Top dress** with stones, moss, or media of your choosing.



LIGHT & LOCATION

- **Leave in a cool location** until growth begins.
- **When growth begins**, place in area that receives lots of light.
- **If plants must be staked**, consider cut branches from garden (red twig dogwood, curly willow, birch, Japanese maple).
- **Strongly scented flowers should form 4–6 weeks** after potting and bloom for 10–14 days indoors.
- **Plant paperwhites every 10–14 days** for continuous blooms throughout Winter. Store unplanted bulbs away from frost.



WATER

- **Water bulbs thoroughly**; allow soil to absorb enough water to be thoroughly soaked. If using non-draining pot, add water until it reaches bottom of bulbs; do not cover bulbs.
- **Keep water level** at root level in rocks or evenly moist in soil.
- **To reduce stem and leaf growth** so they don't grow too tall and flop over, can use diluted solutions of alcohol—results in paperwhites that are 1/3–1/2 shorter with equal sized flowers.



AFTERCARE

- Unlike other Narcissus, Paperwhites are not hardy outdoors and **should be composted after done blooming.** Repotted Paperwhites will produce small, insignificant blooms.



TOXICITY

- Like all Narcissus, all plant parts are toxic and **should be kept away from young children and pets.**