



Dennis 7 Dees

GROWING HOLIDAY BULBS



Amaryllis

Amaryllis are tropical bulbs that bloom in the winter indoors with dramatically large, trumpet-shaped flowers on tall, sturdy stems. Bloom colors range from red and pink to white or bi-colored depending on the variety.

POTTING



- **Soak dry roots** in luke-warm water 1–2 hours before planting (not necessary, but may hasten growth process).
- **Place 2 inches of potting soil** in bottom of pot. Amaryllis bulbs like to sit with $\frac{1}{3}$ of bulb above soil line, so place bulb and gently pack soil between roots; should be about 1 inch of soil between bulb and edge of pot—tight fit preferred.

LIGHT & LOCATION



- **Bright, indirect light** is ideal, but medium light will do. Rotate so plant grows straight (not bending towards light).
- **Rapidly growing plants may need to be staked** to remain straight, but be careful not to pierce bulb with the stake.

WATERING



- **Water once after you first pot up** Amaryllis bulb, then sparingly until sprout is well out of the bulb (2–3 inches).
- **Then water regularly** and you will soon see spectacular blooms, 4–6 per stalk, 2–3 stalks depending on bulb size.
- **It can take 6–12 weeks to produce a flower.** Warm, sunny conditions can speed things up, but once the bud opens, it can be moved to a cooler spot indoors to slow it down and be enjoyed for a longer time.

AFTERCARE



- **When blooms fade**, cut off tubular flower stem near top of bulb, leaving foliage to continue growing.
- **Water as usual**; apply water-soluble fertilizer every 4 weeks.
- **Once danger of frost is past**, move Amaryllis bulb outdoors to enjoy summer sun. Continue fertilizer program every 4 weeks; necessary for next round of indoor forcing.
- **In early autumn** (late September or early October), bring Amaryllis inside and allow to completely dry out (can take several weeks). Cut off dry leaves and let “rest” 6 weeks.
- **Repot in new soil** and start process all over again!

TOXICITY



- Amaryllis bulbs make great gifts, are easy to grow, and are rewarding for all ages and skill levels, but all plant parts are toxic and **should be kept away from kids/pets.**

Paperwhites

Paperwhites are a type of Narcissus that can be grown indoors 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



- **Single bulbs may be placed** in small containers or several can be planted together in larger, shallow pots; avoid letting bulbs touch each other when planted.
- **Fill pot halfway with soil, rocks, or pebbles.** Set bulb(s) gently in soil and pack more soil around bulbs, leaving tips visible. If using rocks, leave $\frac{1}{3}$ of bulb uncovered.

LIGHT & LOCATION



- **Once they begin to grow**, place in window sill or area that receives plenty of light.
- **Planting paperwhites every 10–14 days** allows continuing profusion of blooms throughout entire winter season. Store unplanted bulbs in cool, dry place that doesn't freeze.
- **If plants must be staked**, consider cutting branches from garden (red twig dogwood, curly willow, Japanese maple).

WATERING



- **Water bulbs thoroughly**; allow time for soil to absorb enough water to be thoroughly soaked. If using non-draining containers or planting in rocks, add water until it reaches bottom of bulbs (never cover bulbs; they will rot).
- **Strongly scented flowers should form** 4–6 weeks after potting and bloom for 10–14 days indoors. **Keep water level** at root level in rock plantings or evenly moist in soil.
- **For shorter and sturdier plants**, leave in cooler place 1–2 weeks right after planting so they form roots before much top growth; a garage/garden shed 45–55 °F works great.
- To reduce stem and leaf growth so they don't grow too tall and flop over, you can also use diluted solutions of alcohol. The result is paperwhites that are $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ shorter with equal sized flowers that last as long as normal.

AFTERCARE



- Although they are a type of Narcissus (daffodil), they are not considered hardy outdoors in our climate and **should be composted after they finish blooming.**

TOXICITY



- All members of the Narcissus family are considered toxic and **should be kept away from children and pets.**