



## **AMARYLLIS CARE**

Pot amaryllis bulbs in plastic, terra cotta, or any decorative container that has at least one drainage hole. Amaryllis bulbs like to be pot-bound so choose a container only slightly bigger than the bulb. When potted there should be only an inch or so of soil around the bulb. The container also needs to be deep enough to place two-thirds of the bulb inside, yet still leave plenty of room for root growth. After selecting a pot, place the bulb and fill with any well-drained potting mix taking care not to damage the roots. Water thoroughly, until water drains out the bottom. After this water only when the soil is dry to the touch. Place in a warm sunny place. The bulb will soon start to send up a shoot and should bloom in 6 to 10 weeks. Move the bulb to a cooler spot to prolong the blossoms.

After the blossoms fade cut the flowering stalks at the base. Water when dry, feed with a general purpose fertilizer, and keep in a sunny place. After all danger of frost, move the pot outdoors to a partially shaded spot, gradually moving to full sun. Keep up the same watering practices and feed weekly.

For a Christmas bloom place the pots on their sides at the end of July. After the foliage browns, cut it back to 1-2 inches. Bring the pot inside before the first frost and resume watering in late September to early October. For a later bloom simply leave the bulb outside till September. Bring the pots in and place in a dark closet on their sides. In November bring them out, cut back the foliage, water and place them in a sunny place to start the cycle over. With care the bulbs can last for several years.