

# HOW TO GROW AMARYLLIS GUIDELINES

EASY TO  
GROW

Amaryllis like a tight fit in their pot with about 2.5cm (1in) between the bulb and the sides. If you're planting just one bulb, use a 15-20cm (6-8in) diameter container that's nearly twice that in depth. For three or five bulbs, select a large pot.

Amaryllis are large bulbs and have a tendency to rot so the shoulder of the bulb should sit one-third above the surface of the compost when you plant.

Water from the top with tepid tap water, but be careful not to make too wet in non-draining pots.

These are hot-climate tender plants and they love warmth - a light and well-ventilated place, free from draughts is ideal. A warm sunny windowsill is ideal.

Keep the compost moist until a shoot appears and then water more. If you

want to keep the bulb to grow again, this is also the time to start a weak monthly balanced liquid feed.

To make them look lovely straight away, poke in lots of silver birch, alder, oak or hazel branches between the bulbs. The twigs give the amaryllis support as they grow and the burgeoning nest of twigs and emerging shoots make a fantastic table centre even without the flowers.

As soon as the flowers start to open, move the plant to a cooler place to prolong their life. As light a position as possible, 10-15C is fine.

Each flower should last about three weeks before they brown, but a great big bulb should provide at least one or two more flowering stems.

Even then, with the show over for this year, all is not lost. To ensure your

amaryllis bulbs flower next year, you need to encourage the foliage to grow as long as possible. These plants are not hardy so don't plant them out in the garden.

Cut the old flower spikes down but leave the foliage. Keep them somewhere light and warm and continue to feed and water. They also need a dry, dormant season, so once the leaves begin to die back in late summer, stop watering and allow the foliage to shrivel.

Keep the bulb still in its pot completely dry until early winter. Bring into the warmth and begin gentle watering again and your bulb will re-shoot.

**Remember - These plants are not hardy, but can be planted out for Summer flower.**