

POTTED AMARYLLIS BULB CONTAINER



SOURCE: The Old Farmer's Almanac

OBJECTIVE(S):

1. **Educational Components**

Each participant will learn about the different types of amaryllis and basic information regarding the growth and maintenance of an amaryllis bulb. They will then learn how to plant a bulb in a pot.

2. **Activity**

Each participant will then plant (or be assisted to plant) a bulb in a container.

3. **Take Away**

Each participant will take a container of potted amaryllis bulbs to their room.

MATERIALS:

(Plan for 8-10 patients. Eight is supposed to be the maximum, but sometimes we get 10.)

_____ Pens

_____ Markers

_____ Dishpans for dirt (available in BRI supply cabinet)

_____ Watering cans (2 available in BRI supply cabinet) or individual water bottles for patients to use.

_____ Name tags for patients (check BRI supply cabinet)

_____ Example of completed project you're doing

_____ An extra set of the patient project materials listed below in order for you to demonstrate the project

_____ TWO completed presentation forms (1 to BRI and 1 mailed to Ext. office)

_____ Your clean receipts for materials purchased (give to BRI therapists)

SPECIFIC ITEMS NEEDED for this project

- LARGER sized amaryllis bulbs—larger ones grow better
- Plastic container with an opening that is 2 inches larger than the bulb
- Soil
- Water
- Optional, decorations for the pot

IS A POWERPOINT OR PREZI OF PRESENTATION AVAILABLE? NO

IS A HANDOUT AVAILABLE: NO

BEFORE CLASS

1. If you can't pot the bulb right away, store it in a cool, dry, dark place.
2. Consider having available: Plant catalogs or nursery information with pictures of amaryllis.

DURING CLASS

1. If the roots are tangled, gently separate.
2. Fill the container with 2 inches of soil, packing it slightly.
3. Place the bulb, pointy end up/roots down, in the pot, filling around it with soil, keeping the bulb's neck and half the bulb exposed.
4. Water thoroughly and place in a bright, well-ventilated room. (As a general rule, the warmer the room, the faster the amaryllis will grow as they do not like drafts and cold air.)
5. Once growth begins water when soil feels dry to the touch.
6. To coax plants to grow as soon as possible, place in a sunny window. To delay flowering, place in a cool spot.

MAINTENANCE:

- Place in a warm bright sunny location.
- Rotate the pot a quarter turn each time you water to keep the spike from leaning toward the light.
- Stake it if necessary to keep it from snapping—these plants tend to be top heavy.
- Putting the pot into a larger, heavier cache pot will not only keep it from toppling but will balance the look of the large flowers.
- Once your amaryllis is blooming, you can move it to a cooler location out of direct sunlight to make the blossoms last longer.
- After the blossom fades, cut the flower stem – not the leaves—a few inches above its base. Keep the plant growing in a warm, bright location. Don't be surprised if a second stem suddenly appears with another round of colorful heady blossoms.
- Water the plant pot regularly, keeping the soil moist but not soggy.
- Apply household fertilizer monthly to help the bulb “recharge itself” with energy for next year's blooms. A leafy amaryllis makes a pretty household plant even without the blooms.

MAINTENANCE, (*Continued*)

- In September, stop watering and feeding the plant to give it 2 or 3 months of ‘downtime.’ Put the pot in a cool spot and let it just sit, drying out.
- In November, carefully clean the bulb of dried, loose outer scales and dead foliage. Roots should be fleshy but not damaged. Repot in a clean container following the same instructions for planting new bulbs. In 8 weeks, the bulb will bloom again.

INFORMATION/DESCRIPTION/FACTS:

Amaryllis is a showy, cheerful plant to have during the holidays or later winter. It is a blooming bulb that produces spectacular blooms measuring up to 10 inches across, atop sturdy stalks up to 26 inches tall. Most common amaryllis varieties produce two stems per bulbs, each with four blooms, although some cultivars may produce six blooms. This winter-blooming stunner is available in a variety of shapes and colors; in fact, almost too many different types of amaryllis to count. The major categories are large flowering, double flowering, and exotic amaryllis varieties.

Dutch hybrid bulbs require from 6-12 weeks after planting to bloom. Bulbs from South Africa, called Christmas flowering, need 4-6 weeks to bloom. When shopping for amaryllis bulbs, you can buy the boxed kits which contain not only a fat bulb but a pot and some soil. These make a nice gift, but there are not a lot of color choices—generally they offer red, pink, and white. Some garden centers offer large-size, bare bulbs which give you more variety, and each one usually produces 2 or more flower spikes. Each spike will produce 2 to 4 large trumpet-shaped blossoms.



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Amaryllis bulbs are classified by size, which is determined by measuring around the outside of the bulb at its widest point.

Another good reason for choosing a bare bulb is that you can see the condition of the bulb without having to rummage around in a box. Make sure it is heavy and firm, not moldy or squishy. It should have some fairly long fleshy roots attached.

SOURCES:

Dyer, M. (n.d.). *Amaryllis Flower Varieties: Different Types of Amaryllis*. Gardening Knowhow Newsletter. Retrieved April 20, 2018, from www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/bulbs/amaryllis-hippeastrum/types-of-amaryllis.htm

Garden Journal. (2017, November 27). *Amaryllis: How to grow amaryllis bulbs*. The Old Farmer's Almanac. Retrieved April 20, 2018, from <https://www.almanac.com/blog/gardening/garden-journal/amaryllis-how-grow-amaryllis-bulbs>