

POTTED AMARYLLIS IN A MINI-LANDSCAPED CONTAINER



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OBJECTIVES:

EDUCATIONAL

Participants will learn how bulbs grow and store energy, and the chilling requirements for different bulbs.

ACTIVITY

Participants will create a “mini landscape” in a basket by planting an amaryllis bulb with ferns and other small tropical plants.

TAKE AWAY

Participants will bring their “landscaped basket” to their rooms, along with two handouts on bulbs that don’t require chilling and bulbs that do require chilling.

MATERIALS:

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

- ____ Pens
- ____ Markers
- ____ Dishpans for dirt (2 available in BRI supply cabinet)
- ____ Watering cans (2 available in BRI supply cabinet) or individual watering bottles for patients to use
- ____ Name tags for patients (check BRI supply cabinet)
- ____ Example of completed project you’re doing

LESSON PLAN: AMARYLLIS IN LANDSCAPE CONTAINER

MATERIALS *(Continued)*

- _____ A extra set of the patient-project materials listed below in order for you to demonstrate the project.
- _____ Completed presentation forms (1 to BRI and 1 mailed to ext. office)
- _____ Your clean receipts for materials purchased (give to BRI therapists)
- _____ Other

SPECIFIC ITEMS NEEDED for this project:

- Amaryllis bulbs (1 per participant)
(NOTE: The striped "Splash" amaryllis is quite dramatic on pictured on page "1," but any amaryllis will do.)
- Plastic containers for amaryllis bulbs
- Small tropical ferns and miniature plants grown for terrariums
- Shallow round baskets large enough to plant potted bulb plus extra plants
(NOTE: Cheap baskets may often be found at Goodwill.)
- Drain tray or saucer for baskets
- Plastic for lining basket
- Potting soil
- Moss
- Scissors
- *Optional, figurines for mini landscape*

IS A POWERPOINT OR PREZI PRESENTATION AVAILABLE? No

HANDOUTS: 1) *"Bulbs that Don't Require Chilling"*
 2) *"Bulbs that Require Chilling"*

BEFORE CLASS

Prepare plastic liners for basket:

1. Cut pieces of plastic to fit inside each basket.
3. Place plastic liner in each basket.
3. Cut a drainage hole in each plastic liner toward the center of the basket.

DURING CLASS

1. When participants introduce themselves, ask them to also talk about if they've grown bulbs, and what their favorite bulbs are.
2. Give a presentation on the cycle of bulbs, including how they store energy, when to cut back foliage after they finish blooming, and chilling requirements for most bulbs. Discuss which bulbs do not have chilling requirements.
3. Place potting soil in plastic container.

LESSON PLAN: AMARYLLIS IN LANDSCAPE CONTAINER

DURING CLASS *(Continued)*

4. 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.
5. Center potted amaryllis container in a basket that has already been lined with the prepared plastic.
6. Fill the basket around the pot with soil
7. Make little holes in the soil, and plant small tropical ferns and miniature plants grown for terrariums.
8. Cover the soil to the basket's edge with moss, leaving the amaryllis bulb exposed.
9. Water potted amaryllis and plants in basket.
10. Place in a sunny window.

MAINTENANCE

Place the pot indoors in a sunny window (the more sun the better) and keep the soil evenly moist. When the flower stalk begins to emerge, rotate the pot about one-half turn every few days so it will grow straight. If you provide your amaryllis with too little light, the flower stalk will grow excessively tall and may even fall over. Flowering generally occurs about six to eight weeks after planting the bulb. Some large bulbs will produce two flower stalks.

Sometime after the flower spike has emerged, leaves will grow from the top of the bulb. After the flowers have faded, cut the stalk at the point where it emerges from the bulb, but do not cut any foliage. Keep the plant inside and continue to provide plenty of light.

INFORMATION/DESCRIPTION/FACTS:

- Amaryllises are **no-chill bulbs** and generally take **6-8 weeks** to start blooming after planting indoors, although **this can vary quite a bit** by cultivar.
- The flowers can last **3-6 weeks**.
- To prepare an **amaryllis** (a 6-8 week one) for **Valentine's Day**, get it planted by **mid December**. It should be in bloom in **early February**.
- Alternately, start it a little later and let the recipient have the joy of seeing the blooms unfold each day.

Spring bulbs are such a treat when they're in flower. But once the flowers fade, you are stuck with only the leaves, that weren't much to look at to begin with and continue downhill from there. It's tempting to want to cut them down and be done with them, but if you want the bulbs to bloom again next year, you have to resist the urge to cut the leaves or even make them look tidier.

Flowering bulbs need their leaves to photosynthesize and make food, after they finish flowering.

LESSON PLAN: AMARYLLIS IN LANDSCAPE CONTAINER

INFORMATION/DESCRIPTION/FACTS *(Continued)*

Each year, bulbs must store enough food to not just get them through the remainder of the year, but also to set new buds. That takes a lot of energy.

When Can You Safely Cut Back Flowering Bulb Leaves?

Eight weeks is a good rule of thumb. That means bulbs that emerged and bloomed in April need to be left standing until June. Unless you plan on saving the seeds, you can cut back the flower stalks once they've finished blooming. The stalks are just sapping energy from the bulb. If you have hundreds of bulbs, don't worry about cutting them all back. They will still bloom for you next year.

How to Hide Fading Bulb Leaves

If you've interplanted bulbs in a mixed border, perennial plants will start sprouting and shrubs will begin filling in at about the same time the bulbs are fading, slowly hiding them from view. You will notice them less as the garden fills with green and color.

If you planted large swaths of bulbs, it will be harder to disguise them.

NOTE: More information on the both types of bulbs that don't require and those that do require chilling and their chilling times required is in both the handouts attached.

SOURCES:

Gill, D. (2016, October 8). What's the best pot for an amaryllis? Dan Gill's mailbag. Retrieved April 25, 2018, from http://www.nola.com/homegarden/index.ssf/2016/10/whats_the_best_pot_for_a_n_amar.html

Country Gardens. (2014, January), Article title unknown.

Iannotti, M. (2017, November 8). When can I cut back the browning leaves of my flowering bulbs? Retrieved April 26, 2018, from <https://www.thespruce.com/when-can-i-cut-browning-leaves-1402237>

Source Unknown. (n.d.). Houseplants - Forced Bulbs. Handout.

Truepenny Table. (n.d.). Brighten winter days with spring blooms. Retrieved April 26, 2018, from <https://www.truepennytable.com/garden/brighten-winter-days-with-spring-blooms/> *(Photo)*

LESSON PLAN: AMARYLLIS IN LANDSCAPE CONTAINER

INFORMATION/DESCRIPTION/FACTS *(Continued)*

Will, M. (2016, September 19). How to grow flowering bulbs indoors. Retrieved April 26, 2018, from <https://empressofdirt.net/timing-forced-bulbs-indoors/>

BULBS THAT DON'T REQUIRE CHILLING



AMARYLLIS *Forcing Calendar*

This chart is for amaryllises that begin to bloom **6-8 weeks** after planting indoors. Check your plant tag to confirm timing.

Planting Date	Blooms Begin
Oct 1	Nov 12-26
Oct 15	Nov 26-Dec 10
Nov 1	Dec 13-27
Nov 15	Dec 27-Jan 10
Dec 1	Jan 12-26
Dec 15	Jan 26-Feb 9
Jan 1	Feb 12-26
Jan 15	Feb 26-Mar 11
Feb 1	Mar 14-28
Feb 15	Mar 28-Apr 11
Mar 1	Apr 12-26

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- The flowers can last **3-6 weeks**.



PAPERWHITES *Forcing Calendar*

Follow instructions on plant tag
Blooms begin **2-3 weeks** after planting indoors and last **4-6 weeks**

Planting Date	Blooms Begin
Oct 1	Oct 22-Nov 5
Oct 15	Nov 5-19
Nov 1	Nov 22-Dec 6
Nov 15	Dec 6-20
Dec 1	Dec 22-Jan 5
Dec 15	Jan 5-19
Jan 1	Jan 22-Feb 5
Jan 15	Feb 5-19
Feb 1	Feb 22-Mar 7
Feb 15	Mar 7-22
Mar 1	Mar 22-Apr 5

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- Paperwhites (narcissus) are **no-chill bulbs** and generally take **3-5 weeks** to start blooming after planting indoors.
- The flowers can last **4-6 weeks**.

BULBS THAT REQUIRE CHILLING

BULBS THAT REQUIRE CHILLING

Start with the easiest ones to

grow: **crocus**, **hyacinth**, **muscari**, and **mini daffodils** (not the hardy, full-size ones).

- You must provide the required chilling period or purchase the bulbs pre-chilled and ready for planting.
- Check the tag on the ones you purchase for specific planting instructions and timing.

Timing Example

If you want **crocuses** in bloom indoors in **March**, count back **18 weeks** (=early November) to find the date they should start chilling.

CHILL TIME FOR BULB FORCING (Store at 35-45°F)

Daffodils	12-15 weeks
Tulips	10-16 weeks
Crocus	8-15 weeks
Grape hyacinth	8-15 weeks
Iris	13-15 weeks
Snowdrop	15 weeks
Hyacinth	12-15 weeks

©Truepenny Table

These bulbs are easy-to-grow for beginners
Average bloom times listed below
Check your plant tags for specific timing & instructions

	Weeks of Pre-Chilling	Weeks to Bloom after Pre-chilling and Planting	Total Weeks
Crocus	15	2-3	17-18
Hyacinth	12-15	2-3	14-18
Muscari	13-15	2-3	15-18
Mini Daffodil	15-17	2-3	17-20

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IMPORTANT TIP: While you can chill bulbs in the refrigerator, they interact with many fruits in your refrigerator and will fail to bloom.