

ROYAL DUTCH AMARYLLIS

You will have success with Royal Dutch Amaryllis if you follow a few simple rules.

Potting. Pot your amaryllis between November and April. Choose a fairly deep flower pot approximately one inch larger in circumference than the bulb. Place a small stone or similar object on the hole in the bottom of the pot, so that the water can drain from the bottom, but soil cannot. Plant the bulb so that half of its depth is above the top of the soil.

Temperature. Place your potted amaryllis in a warm shaded area, preferably where there is gentle bottom heat (60-75 F). Even temperatures at day and night will give the best results. When the amaryllis is in full bloom, cool night temperatures (50 F) will lengthen your flower's life.

Water. Give very little water until the bud is formed. Once the flower bud is well developed, you may place your pot in cooler, well-lit area, but avoid direct sunlight. At this stage, the roots can stand more moisture and regular watering is required.

Preserving Bulbs for Next Year. After flowering, keep the bulbs growing indoors by keeping the soil moist. Add a little plant food from time to time. When the chance of a frost has passed, put the plant in the garden, preferably in semi-shade. Before any frost occurs, during late September or early October, take the pot and the plant out of the soil. Store it in a dry place about 65 F and stop watering completely. The foliage will gradually turn yellow and when it has done so, you may cut off the foliage 2 inches above the top of the bulb. Leave the pot dry and undisturbed for a month or two and then repeat the potting and growing instructions above. You may keep the bulb growing indoors if you have no place for planting outside. Keep watering the plant and give it some plant food every few weeks. You may cut foliage off the latter part of October – then follow the above instructions.

