

LANDON'S
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Adding Color to Your Life

How to make your Amaryllis bloom again:

Amaryllis are not difficult to grow and can be brought into bloom every year if the plants are treated correctly.

1. Keep it cool through the holidays.

Enjoy your amaryllis for the maximum time possible by placing it in a location with diffused light and cool indoor temperatures in the 60-degree range. Keep it barely moist. When you water, be careful not to get the portion of the bulb that is above the soil line wet. If you have a large bulb, you may get two or three flowering stalks that bloom over a period of several weeks.

2. Cut the flower stalks.

When the last flower has faded on each of the flower stalks, cut stalk near the top of the bulb. Be careful not to injure the leaves or any emerging flower stalks.

3. Increase light, water, and fertilizer.

It's now late winter, and your amaryllis is in its growth phase. Your main objective is to encourage leaf production that will help the bulb bulk up for next year's flowers. It's hard to give your bulb too much sunlight at this time of the year. Move it to the sunniest location that you can manage. A south facing window will work until spring comes. Fertilize it monthly, and never allow the soil to dry completely.

4. Move it outdoors in spring

As soon as all threat of frost is gone, move your amaryllis outside. Don't be alarmed if many of the leaves wither and die in the adjustment. Choose a sunny area and water it daily. Fertilize every 2 weeks or use a slow release fertilizer.

5. Decide when you'd like your amaryllis to bloom

If you want your amaryllis to bloom for Christmas, you need to begin its dormant period by mid August. Withhold water, and move to a cooler location, around 55 degrees.

6. Keep it in cool storage until the bulbs signal they are ready to go.

Keep the bulb on the dry side, checking it every week. After 8-10 weeks, you should notice the tip of the new flower stalk emerging. If you shift the bulb to a warm spot (70-80 degrees) for 3 weeks, you will encourage leaves to emerge at the same time the flower stalk is developing. At this point, repot the bulb in fresh soil, but don't bury it too deeply. Leave 1/3 of the bulb above the soil level.

7. Start it warm and water tentatively

Water thoroughly right after you repot and allow the soil to dry before watering again. Place it in a warm spot to stimulate root growth. A sunny spot is best. Wait until the first flower has opened to move the plant to a location with subdued light and cool temperatures to preserve the flower as long as possible.

8. Repeat

You can keep your amaryllis indefinitely, and if you can provide the right conditions for growth and dormancy. Your bulb will get larger and multiply itself over the years. Large bulbs may produce as many as 3 flower stalks and some bulbs may bloom during the summer as well as winter.

Thanks for choosing Landon's Greenhouse for you plant and flower needs! We are here to help year round.