

Amaryllis, Bringing it Back Into Bloom

By Ward Upham, Kansas State University

With proper care, amaryllis will bloom year after year. Bring the pot in before the first frost and place in a dark location. Withhold water so leaves have a chance to dry completely. Then cut them off close to the top of the bulb. Amaryllis needs to rest for at least a month before the plant is started back into growth. It takes an additional six to eight weeks for the plant to flower.



When you are ready for amaryllis to resume growth, water thoroughly and place the plant in a warm, sunny location. Do not water again until the roots are well developed, as bulb rot is a concern. Amaryllis needs temperatures between 50 and 60 degrees F during the period before flowering as higher temperatures can weaken leaves. The flower bud may start to appear right away or the plant may remain dormant for a period of time but eventually all mature bulbs do bloom if they have been given proper care during the growing season. Keep the plant in a cool location and out of direct sunlight when the flower buds begin to show color so that the flowers last longer. Amaryllis can remain in bloom for about a month.

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