

Growing Amaryllis Bulbs

Most Amaryllis bulbs are sold in a kit that includes the bulb, soil media, container and growing directions. If you are growing a bulb from last year, start with a container that is slightly larger than the bulb, one that has adequate drainage holes and use a good potting soil. Plant it so that 1/3 of the bulb is above the soil and place it in a well-lighted area . . . one that receives a few hours of sunlight a day.

Water after planting and then sparingly about once a week or when the soil surface is dry. It will flower best in a temperature range of 65-75 degrees and will take about 3-6 weeks to flower. The plant can be placed outside after the danger of frost is over – around mid-April. With mulching and care, it can be brought back indoors to repeat the cycle next year.

Resources:

Houseplant Care – OSU Fact Sheet [HLA-6411](#)

Growing Amaryllis, NC Extension - waynecountyag.com

Winter House Plant Care

As we follow up on those houseplants that took a break and spent the summer outside and now reside inside, we hope they are now adjusting to being indoors. During the winter the amount of water and the amount of light that indoor plants receive is very critical as well as the temperature and humidity.

WATER

Generally, houseplants need less water in the winter because they are not always actively growing. Overwatering is the biggest “killer” of indoor plants. Always check the soil for dryness before watering and note that different plants have different needs. For instance, ferns need more water while succulents may only need watering once a month. Perhaps a small investment in a moisture meter would help if you have very many plants.

LIGHT

The amount of light is also very critical. Light from west windows may be too strong in the summer but perfect for the winter. Remember that the sun changes positions so take that into account on your lighting.

TEMPERATURE

First, drafts or excess heat from a register is a big “no-no.” Most houseplants like temperatures in the 70’s, but lower at night is quite beneficial and acceptable. Most of our homes are dryer when the heat is on so added humidity is usually necessary.

TIP: Grouping plants together will help as you can place saucers of water nearby. One idea is to turn over a saucer and place it in a larger one; then set the plant on the turned over saucer and keep water in the larger saucer, thus avoiding any absorption of water.

Misting daily is another option or using a small humidifier, especially when the plants are grouped together. Never let a plant stand in water and make sure that there is adequate drainage.

FERTILIZER

Most indoor plants do not need to be fertilized in the winter because shorter daylight reduces active growth.

For further information and a list of light and moisture requirements of specific indoor plants, refer to OSU Fact sheet on "Houseplant Care" [HLA-6411](#).