



Amaryllis in Alachua County

Fact Sheet # ORN311

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About the Amaryllis

An Amaryllis (*Hippeastrum x hybridum*) is a beautiful tropical and subtropical flower from South Africa, commonly given as gifts around the holidays. Florida's warmer temperatures allow us to plant Amaryllis bulbs within our landscapes once we begin to warm-up in the late winter and early spring.

Amaryllis Flower



Figure 1: An Amaryllis flower can be up to six-inches wide and have very bright, showy colors.

The Amaryllis is part of the Amaryllidaceae family and has colorful, bold flowers that come in reds, whites, pinks, crimson, and even green. Amaryllis flowers can be solid or striped. After the Amaryllis flowers dieback, watch for strappy looking leaves to emerge from the bulb. Unless we have a major freeze, the long leaves will persist throughout most of the year. These leaves help gather resources for the bulb to produce a flower the following year.

Amaryllis in the Landscape

Plant Amaryllis bulbs outside between September and January in an area with partial sun and well-drained soils. If you plant the Amaryllis in too deep of shade, they will not be as showy in your landscape.

Planting Amaryllis Bulbs in Pots

To plant an Amaryllis bulb, select a pot that has a diameter, at minimum, 1.5x the diameter of the bulb. Amaryllis can be top-heavy, so a larger pot helps keep the flower from toppling over.

Fill your pot with a well-drained potting media and place the Amaryllis bulb in the center of the pot. To help encourage early flowering of the Amaryllis when planting, keep half or two-thirds of the bulb above the soil line. Make sure you firmly press onto the soil around the bulb to keep it from moving around.

After planting the Amaryllis, water thoroughly and place in a bright spot (not direct sun) around your home that stays relatively cool. Now you wait. No watering or fertilizing is required until the flower sprouts. Once sprouted move your Amaryllis to full-sun and keep the soil moist (adding water when you notice the soil feels dry).

Around six weeks later, your Amaryllis will bloom. Move it away from direct sunlight and enjoy!

You may add small amounts of fertilizer after the bloom fades to help feed the bulb nutrients for next year's blooms. Feel free to keep the bulb in your pot for two more years or plant the Amaryllis bulb in your landscape this September.