

AMARYLLIS CARE

Water the amaryllis bulb in a container one time when it is first planted and then abstain from watering until it begins to show growth. Keep the bulb moist but not water-logged once growth commences. Place the container in full sunlight to encourage it to break dormancy and flower.

The amaryllis can be kept inside as a houseplant after the blooms are finished. Don't plant it outside unless you live in the warm USDA Zones 9-11, because the amaryllis hails from South America and can't take the cold.

To keep it as a houseplant, cut away the dead blooms and continue to water the foliage weekly until the spring. At that point, you can bury the pots outside in part shade, and then bring the plant back indoors in September. Then cut down the water to once every other week until October 1. From October 1 until November 1, do not water the plant and cut off the foliage after it's dried out. This lets the bulb rest and gets it ready to bloom again.

Around November 1, retrigger the growth of the blooms by washing away the top 2 inches of soil and replacing it with fresh soil and regular watering. This tells the plant it's time to bloom again. The amaryllis will need a new, larger pot every three or four years.