

## **Amaryllis – Hippeastrum**

Perennial from Bulbs

Zones: 8-10

Amaryllis is often sold as a dormant bulb during the holiday season. Sometimes they are sold as Dutch or Giant Amaryllis; they are commercially available in reds, pinks, salmon, near-orange, white, and striped varieties. They look beautiful planted in decorative pots with moss or pebbles on top. Stake if needed with small bamboo stakes tied with raffia for a decorative look.

Amaryllis is normally grown in a pot planted with rich, sandy potting mix amended with bone meal or superphosphate. Allow a 2" space between the pot and bulb. When planting, leave half the bulb above the soil surface. Keep soil barely moist until foliage appears, then water regularly. Once flowers fade, cut the stem and allow leaves to grow, making sure to not overwater. Feed with an all-purpose plant food throughout the spring and summer. If leaves start to die, stop watering and put the plant in a cool place until fall. I put mine on a garage shelf. Repot with fresh soil in late fall or early winter. Some have reported good luck with them in the garden in zones 8-9 and higher, but I have not had such luck in Calaveras County. Light shade in hottest climates or diffused light indoors. Do not put in a sunny window.