



My Amaryllis Bulb has finished blooming... What Next?

If you want to keep your bulb and enjoy it for years to come, follow the directions below:

1. Remove any treatment from the bulb (wax or moss) and cut off any stalks that have lost their flowers. Leave any leaves in place.
2. Remove any exterior skin layers that may be brown or soft. Get the bulb to the freshest, firmest skin layer (like peeling an onion).
3. Plant the bulb in a pot (up to the bulb neck) with soil and some flower fertilizer. Place it in a very sunny, open spot in the garden or patio. It's important that the spot chosen gets lots of drainage and/or wind to keep the soil from staying too damp. Too much moisture can cause major problems with amaryllis bulbs.
4. Keep the soil just moist and every 1.5-2 weeks add some flower fertilizer, following the instructions on the bottle. Try not to get water down in the neck of the bulb.
5. The bulb will produce big leaves which will soak up all the summer sun's energy, transferring it into the bulb, growing new buds. The leaves will tell you if it needs more water, less water or more sun. The bigger and greener the leaves, the better.
6. At the end of summer, reduce watering and fertilizing. Once the leaves turn yellow, cut them off, remove the bulb from the soil and store the bulb in a cool, dark spot with average temperatures of 55-60 F. You should check the bulb every few weeks to make sure no mold is growing on it. It needs 10-12 weeks of dormancy to bloom.
7. These bulb varieties can bloom without planting or watering -- as they did the first time around -- if they have stored enough energy in the bulb from its time in the summer sun. If you aren't sure, you can always plant them in a pot or place them in a bowl or vase with water to ensure good blooming from now on.
8. After the dormancy period, the most important thing is to bring the bulb to an area of 70°F or more. For timing bulbs to bloom for Christmas, you will want to store the bulbs in late August or early September, and then pull them out again the middle to end of October.