



Amaryllis

Hippeastrum × hybridum

The most theatrical bulb we grow. Every one arrives with its flower already built inside it, and the same bulb will bloom again for years.

Next year

Keep every leaf after flowering, they rebuild the bulb

FULL SUN

ROOM TEMP

REBLOOMS

EASY CARE

DAY TO DAY

Light	A sun lover — at least four hours of direct sun a day. South window is best, east or west acceptable. Turn the pot every few days or the stalk leans to the glass.
Water	Water thoroughly once when you first pot it, then wait about a week. After that keep the soil slightly moist, roughly weekly, increasing to once or twice a week in flower. Never pour water onto the nose of the bulb where it can sit and rot, and always empty the saucer.
Food	Do not feed a freshly potted bulb with no leaves — it burns the new roots. Once leaves appear, twice a month with liquid houseplant food.
Temperature	Warm, 21–24°C / 70–75°F, until roots and shoots get going. Once the flowers open move it to the coolest room you have, around 18°C / 65°F, out of direct sun, and the blooms last considerably longer.
Humidity	No special humidity needed.

WHEN THE FLOWERS FINISH

This bulb reflowers for years if you let it recharge. Cut each flower off as it fades, and when the last is gone cut the stalk just above the nose of the bulb — but keep every leaf. Grow it on like a houseplant in a sunny window all spring and summer, watering and feeding; the leaves rebuild the bulb. Then rest it: stop water and food for 8–10 weeks, let the leaves yellow and die back, hold the bulb around 13°C / 55°F. When a new bud emerges, cut off the dead foliage, resume watering and return it to the sun.

IF SOMETHING LOOKS WRONG

Soft, brown, foul-smelling bulb	Water has been sitting in the neck of the bulb. Easy to avoid: water the soil around it, let the pot drain, and empty the saucer.
Lots of leaves but no flower	The bulb never got a proper rest, or was kept too dark and underfed the previous summer, so it could not build a flower bud.
Red streaks or blotches on stalk and bulb	Red blotch (Stagonospora). Discard badly affected bulbs.
Permanent yellow leaf streaking	Mosaic virus. No cure — discard.

GROWER REFERENCE

Production and finishing figures. If you are keeping this plant on a windowsill, everything you need is on page one — this page is for the trade.

Media pH	6.0–6.5. Avoid pine bark in the mix.
Media EC	Not established in the published guidance.
Substrate	Well-drained, coarse, sterilized medium high in organic matter — equal parts peat and perlite works well; some growers add sand for container ballast. Standard 6 in. pot with drainage.
Fertilizer	Low fertility, 75–150 ppm N. The flower spike is already preformed inside the bulb, so excess nitrogen only pushes foliage at the expense of flowering. Begin only after growth starts, using either a several-month CRF or liquid NPK every 2–4 weeks.
Light	Not established numerically. Bright high light produces the shortest stems and best flower quality; partial shading is sometimes beneficial at high altitude.
Temperature	21–24°C / 70–75°F until rooting and leaf emergence, then 18–24°C / 65–75°F through growth. In flower, 16–18°C / 60–65°F extends flower life. Bulb storage 13–23°C / 55–73°F moist, or 20–25°C / 68–77°F dry.
Relative humidity	Not established.
Irrigation	Saturate once with lukewarm water at planting, then hold slightly moist — about weekly — watering again only if the medium dries before active growth. Never allow water to collect in the centre of the bulb. Overwatering before root establishment is the primary production problem.
Photoperiod	Not photoperiodic. The scape is preformed during the previous growth cycle and forcing is temperature-driven; flowering occurs 4–8 weeks after growth is initiated.

DISORDERS & PESTS

Overwatering and bulb/root rot (chief production problem), *Stagonospora curtisii* (fire / red blotch), mosaic virus. Mites, thrips, mealybugs. Height uniformity is a recurring finishing issue — pre-plant PGR bulb soaks have been researched for it.

GROWN BY

Boekestyn Greenhouses Inc.

2085 Fourth Ave, St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 6P9, Canada
 boekestyngreenhouses.com · hello@boekestyngreenhouses.com
 Three generations of family growing since 1962.

Every amaryllis is sold with its flower already inside it — the scape forms during the previous season, which is why a dry bulb needs no light at all to bloom, and why over-feeding a forced bulb gives you leaves instead of flowers.

Sources

- NC State Extension, Home forcing of potted amaryllis
- GPN, Cybister amaryllis; Cornell flowerbulbs