

Thank you for buying plants from the Stokes Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Association. The money we raised will be spent in support of our educational mission and the horticultural programs of the County Extension Service.



Tips for your Amaryllis:

To pot your bulb, select a container 1-2" larger than the diameter of the bulb. A ceramic or clay pot with good drainage is best as the extra weight helps support the tall growth. Fill the container with potting soil and set the bulb so the top third is showing. Place the container in a warm, sunny location. Water well to begin with, then only water when the soil appears dry. Fertilize after leaf growth has started, slow release or 2-4 times a month.

Plan on 4-7 weeks for the amaryllis to flower when grown in a bright, sunny spot. Ideally, grow plants indoors at 65–75°F. Warmer temperatures encourage faster growth and earlier blooming. Once the flower stalk grows, rotate by a half turn each day to keep the stem growing straight. You can prolong the life of the flowers by putting the pot to a slightly cooler location and out of direct sunlight. After flowering, cut the flower stalk off about 2" inches above the bulb. Put the plant in a sunny, frost free location.

Acclimate the plant to the outdoors by first placing it in a shady location, after any danger of frost. Gradually increase the sunlight until it receives at least 6 hours a day. The plant can be left in the pot for reflowering in fall or optionally planted in the ground as a landscape plant. Amaryllis do well in good well-drained soil, amended with organic matter, with morning sun. Remember to apply mulch especially in the fall and winter months. The bulbs should flower in the spring when growing outdoors.

Amaryllis bulbs need a cool dormancy period to reflower. Stop watering and fertilizing for 6-8 weeks. The leaves will yellow and wither. Remove them when they are dry. Place dormant bulb in a cool (50-55°F), dark location for 8-10 weeks. Then start the growth cycle again. Move the pot to a warm sunny location and begin watering again, but withhold fertilizing until growth begins again.

Amaryllis Staking Guide (from Terra Ceia Farms):

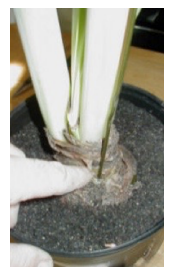
Step 1: Find a wire clothes hanger (sturdy - flimsy won't do!) and remove top with wire clippers. Discard top and straighten remaining section with needle-nose pliers.



Step 2: Form a rectangle by making 90° bends. It should end up being about 1.5" wide by 6" long. Hint: make the first bend about 1" longer in order to form a clasp with the additional wire.

Step 3: Form a clasp by bending the longer leg into a 'U' shape. This will allow you to open the top when placing around the stems.

Step 4: Now bend the rectangle so it is perpendicular to the leg and laying flat (open) to the top. The finished product should be similar to this.



Step 5: Insert the stake into Amaryllis as close to the bulb nose as possible. Push stake through the bulb until it contacts the bottom of the pot. Hint: make sure to insert on the 'leaf edge' side of the bulb. This will ensure that no emerging flowers are damaged by the stake.

Step 6: Enjoy !

We have gardening information, links and events at www.Facebook/StokesEMGV and StokesMGV.org. StokesMGV.org/BulbSale has information on the Bulb Sale plus the informational handouts. There is a calendar of many local gardening seminars and events under Facebook's "Links + Calendar" and our website's Calendar page. You can contact us at semgva.nc@gmail.com. Happy gardening!

