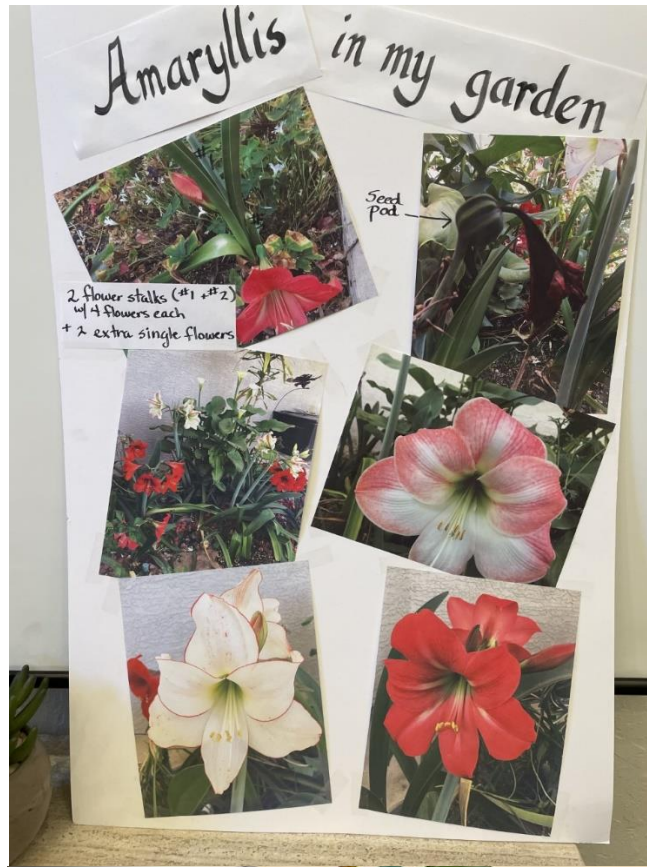


Amaryllis

Presentation & Information by Judy Frank
November 2022



AMARYLLIS.

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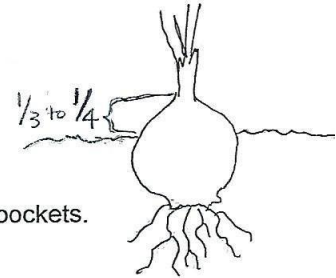
Starting with a holiday amaryllis: after the blooms are done cut off the flower stalk about 2" above the neck of the bulb. DO NOT cut off any leaves. Leaves are needed to put energy back into the bulb. Amaryllis should normally be planted/moved/divided/lifted in the fall: but starting with a holiday amaryllis is the exception.

Location: they cannot take our hot summer sun so they need to be planted in afternoon shade. All day full shade is preferable to hot sun.

Soil: well draining soil.

Soil Prep: work compost into your soil. I do half original soil and half compost. You can add bulb food or other amenities if you want.

How to Plant: dig a hole deep enough for the roots and 2/3 to 3/4's of the bulb. Add the soil back in around the roots and bulb and firm the soil so there are no air pockets. Water it in.



Normal growing season: amaryllis naturally bloom in the spring, March - May. Your holiday amaryllis may not bloom the first spring, but it might. It will put out leaves into June and then they may all die off in July and it may look like your plant is dying. They go dormant during the hottest months so continue to water them. They will usually begin to send out leaves again in September or October. They will be green all winter and then bloom in the spring.

Water: soil needs to dry out between waterings. Water deeply then let it dry out! My watering schedule is approximately:

July - Sept. every 3 days if no big rain

Oct. - Nov. start lengthening the days between so that by

Dec. - Feb. once a week or if a really cold winter 10 days to 2 weeks between

March - June shorten the time between watering as needed. Once they start blooming you should water every 4 days as long as the ground can dry out between. Blooms will last longer with more water.

****my amaryllis are in my garden with plants that do not go dormant and absolutely need water during the summer. The amaryllis might be able to do with less but they get this schedule because of their location.

Fertilizer: I apply a liquid organic kelp fertilizer starting in October, once a month through May.

Flowers: 1 - 6 blossoms per stalk. Depends on the energy/size of the bulb. Six leaves are needed to produce a flower stalk.

Plant Propagation:

Seed: seed pods can set at the base of the flower. This is not the preferred method since it takes energy from the bulb and it may not flower the following year. It takes 3 years for a new plant to bloom.

Bulb Division: this is a slow process. What I have observed is that a bulb has to be large enough to produce 2 flower stalks and they appear to come out of the neck of the bulb right next to each other. The next year there will be 2 stalks again but they are about an inch apart and the 3rd year one will appear to be coming out of the side in its own neck. In the fall this side one will become its own plant. It can be lifted and moved or left alone. Amaryllis don't mind being crowded.

Pests: the only thing I've had a problem with are slugs. They would come out at night and eat the emerging leaves. They didn't bother the mature leaves just the new tips coming out. I was able to control this with finely crushed egg shells spread around the bulbs and after the leaves were about 3 inches long they left them alone.

I had one bulb that didn't grow any leaves for over a year. I dug it up and it was firm but didn't have any roots. I washed it off with water and it looked like it had the start of roots so I planted it in another location where I had others growing and in about a month it started putting out leaves. It bloomed the following spring and is still doing fine 3 years later.

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