

Amaryllis

Amaryllis plants have strappy leaves and huge flowers shaped like [trumpet lilies](#). The blooms are typically a deep red, pink, white, or blend of these colors. You can expect your amaryllis to bloom for seven weeks or longer. Amaryllis has components in the bulbs, leaves, and stems that are toxic to people and pets.

Caring for Amaryllis Outdoors

In [USDA hardiness zones](#) 8 to 10, amaryllis can be grown outdoors. You can grow the bulbs in well-drained, fertile soil, planting them whenever the soil temperature is 70 degrees Fahrenheit or above. Amaryllis is a tropical plant, so it prefers warm temperatures. It will grow in [full sun to part shade conditions](#), but bright shade is the best environment outdoors.

If your area is entirely frost-free, plant the bulbs with their necks at or slightly above ground level. In areas where frost is possible, plant the bulbs with five to six inches of soil above them, followed by five to six inches of mulch. Water thoroughly after planting, but then water only when the top two inches of soil is dry.

After leaves appear, feed with a balanced fertilizer once per month through blooming. When flowering is complete, remove the flower stalks but keep the foliage to continue growing. If any leaves turn yellow, cut them off.

In fall, apply a layer of winter mulch if your area experiences winter frost. The plants typically go dormant over winter.

