**Care of Your Amaryllis**

**Placement and Watering**

Plant the potted bulb in a warm place with direct light since this tropical plant performs well between 70and 80°F.  Water sparingly until the stem appears, then, as the bud and leaves appear, gradually water more. Amaryllis is susceptible to root rot if it is overwatered.  At this point, the stem will grow rapidly and flowers will develop. Bulbs will flower in about 7-10 weeks.

**Maintaining Growth**

There is no need to fertilize the bulb if you plan to compost it after it flowers. But if you plan to reflower it, you should continue growing it in your home by fertilizing with a low rate of nutrients once per month. After chance of frost, you can set it outside to gain size and prepare if for reflowering. Before chance of frost in the fall, you can either let plant go dormant by withholding water or bring it into a cool interior space to overwinter.

**Reflowering in the home.**

The bulb can be reflowered if it has not lost its original bulb size. In the fall, place the bulb at 55°F for 8 to 10 weeks. There are two methods to accomplish this requirement. First, watering can stop and the potted bulb is placed in a cool storage area. Or, the plant can be brought indoors, placed in a 50 to 55°F well-lighted location, and the root medium kept slightly moist. Amaryllis is an evergreen and does not need a dormant period. Once the plant has received at least 8 to 10 weeks of these mildly cool temperatures, it must be placed under warm growing conditions with high light intensities to reflower.

Merry Christmas

from K-State Floriculture & Friends of the K-State University Gardens!