



The Tender Bulbs (Indoor Only) - Bulbs occur all over the earth. Many bulbs, like tulips, need a period of cold winter weather in order to develop flower buds. Bulbs from warmer climates may not require any chilling and in Truckee and Tahoe grow these “tender” bulbs indoors.

Paperwhites (*Narcissus*). *Narcissus* is the Genus of **Daffodils** and **Paperwhites** among others. You can grow indoor *Narcissus* in soil or on pebbles, marbles or shells in bowls or vases (the roots need something to grip so the plants don't tip over).

The pure white paperwhites need little more than moisture to grow and bloom. For hydroponic bulb growing, fill the bottom of a decorative bowl, vase or jar, with 1-3 inches of your choice of gravel, pebbles or hydroponic clay balls. Set as many bulbs as will fit onto the rocks and add a bit more rock. Fill with water to a level just below and **not quite touching the bulb**. Check regularly and maintain the water level or change the water if it looks (or smells) sour. Paperwhites usually bloom within three weeks. When paperwhites are done blooming they may be composted or given to someone in a climate warmer than ours (Sierra piedmont or lower).

The double **Erlicher**, golden **Soleil d'Or**, **Omri** and the two-tone **Chinese Sacred Lily** can be planted in pots or bowls indoor anytime from September to February. Use a pot large enough to hold 3-7 bulbs or more. Put an inch of rock or gravel at the bottom. Add enough well draining potting soil to fill half the pot. Place the bulb on top and add enough soil to cover two thirds of the bulb. Keep the soil moist but not wet and increase watering when the bulb sprout begins to grow. A heat-mat that we use for seedlings will speed root formation and growth. Growing wheatgrass in the pot the last week gives a distinct feeling of spring to the arrangement.

September plantings may take six weeks while later plantings (December -February) may bloom in just two to three weeks. Larger bulbs give you more stems and more flowers per stem. You can store extra bulbs and bring them out every 2 weeks or so for endless crops of fragrant blooms through the winter.

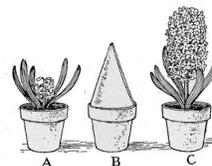
Amaryllis (*Hippeastrum*) is a tender bulb from Africa and a favorite indoor bulb. Nothing compares to these beauties and their spectacular, enormous blooms on gray winter days. Everyone should grow them at least once. When the rest of the state is beginning to enjoy spring and many gardeners are tired of winter, the rich color of amaryllis is very welcome.



The traditional large Amaryllis bulbs such as ‘**Red Lion**’ are like cannon balls up to 6 inches across. They are easy to grow, giving you 3-12, 6-8 inch showy blooms on 2-3, 2 foot stalks. The smaller bulbs of miniature Amaryllis such as ‘**Scarlet Baby**’ (Eric's favorite) give you even more flowering stalks over a much longer period of time. They still yield large, 5-6 inch, scarlet flowers.

Use a pot with a diameter at least 2 inches wider than the bulb. Put an inch of rock or gravel at the bottom. Add enough well draining potting soil to fill half the pot. Place the bulb in the pot and gently add enough soil to cover two thirds of the bulb making sure to fill around the roots and under the bulb. Water thoroughly after planting and then once a week. Place the pot in a warm sunny location. Miniature varieties may bloom in as little as 3 weeks while the large varieties take 4-6 weeks to fully develop.

Re-blooming - After blooming, cut off only the spent flower heads and grow the bulb as you would any sun-loving houseplant: in a bright south or west facing window. Fertilize frequently through spring and summer. Use BigBloom Fertilizer in late summer and stop feeding by fall. The bulbs will send-up flowers again each winter.



TO GET GOOD BLOOMS FROM BULBS
Sometimes a hyacinth flowers poorly just above ground (A). To prevent this, place a cone of paper (open at the top) over the bulb for a fortnight (B). This “dresses” the bulb up and gives a bloom as shown at (C).

Hyacinths are not a “tender” bulb, they will grow well outdoors here. They are the most widely “forced” hardy bulb because of their compact size and ease. Most hardy bulbs must be “forced” to develop flower buds by giving them an artificial chilling period. The Villager offers “**Prepared**”

Hyacinths that have already received their chilling period and need only be planted to grow and bloom. Hyacinth yields the most enjoyable fragrance of any bulb. Even un-prepares, they will often bloom indoors if simply grown in a cool room. Use a pot large enough to hold several bulbs. Put an inch of rock or gravel in the bottom. Plant so the top of the bulbs are at the soil line. Water well. Store bulbs in a cool location. Monitor the pots so they are moist but never soggy. When the green leaves are 2 inches tall, bring them into the light for blooming. Special hyacinth vases let you watch the roots grow.

In a Vase or on Rocks: place hyacinth bulbs in mouth of vase or just into gravel. Add water to a level just below and not touching the bulb. Set the vase in a cool dark place (<50°F) for ~6-8 weeks. Check regularly and maintain the water level. When sprouts are as long as the bulb, move the vase to a warmer bright spot (<65°F), avoid direct sunlight. “Prepared” hyacinths can be grown in any warm location.

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