

THE AMAZING AMARYLLIS



Last week we made some observations about what we saw in a picture. This week, I'm going to share some facts about the amaryllis before we begin our study ... on what we can learn from the amaryllis.

The **amaryllis** commonly **means** determination, beauty, and love. The Victorians associated **amaryllis** with strength and determination because of their height and sturdiness. **Amaryllis** can also **mean** success, and are commonly given as gifts of hard-won achievement. **Amaryllis** is a Greek female name that **means** "to sparkle".

Facts about the amaryllis:

- **Know to bloom for up to 75 years**
- **Amaryllis** are nearly foolproof and **can** be grown successfully by anyone, regardless of the color of their thumb.
- **There** are at least 500 **different** varieties of **Amaryllis** flowers ". Although red and white are the most popular **colors**, the flowers may be pink, orange, yellow/green, salmon and petals with a **different** edge **color** and in both single and double forms.
- Instead of **soil**, you may choose to "water plant" your **amaryllis**. This hydroponic method makes for a beautiful display, and is much simpler than you think. Fill a clear vessel with a three-inch layer of stones or pebbles. Add the **amaryllis** bulb, then add more stones around it for stability.
- The U.S. imports more than **10 million amaryllis bulbs** every year, mainly from **Holland** and **South Africa**.
- You can grow amaryllis from **seed**, but it can take up to six years for them to reach maturity and produce flowers.
- Amaryllis are tender perennials; most are hardy outdoors only in zones 9 to 11.
- Amaryllis make **dramatic and long-lasting cut flowers**.
- Parts of the amaryllis have yielded substances with medically useful properties, one of which has shown promise as a **treatment for Alzheimer's disease**.
- Amaryllis has erect, **hollow stem** that can reach 18 to 36 inches in height. Stem is green with a tinge of purple color.
- Amaryllis bulb produces 3 to 7 leaves and 2 flowering stalks and 2 to 6 **funnel-shaped fragrant flowers**.

Amaryllis Flower Color Meanings

- **Red**: Means passion, love (whether requited or unrequited) and beauty. In China, red is a lucky color.
- **Purple**: Some shades of purple amaryllis varieties are quite dark. Purple symbolizes not only royalty, but the spiritual side of life.
- **Orange**: Means good health and happiness. It is suitable as a get well soon flower.
- **White**: Means purity, femininity, children and innocence. White amaryllis that resemble lilies symbolize mourning for a loved one.
- **Pink**: Not just for girls, but also for love and friendship for both genders and for people of all ages.
- **Yellow**: They are a symbol for happiness, luck and good times ahead.

www.gardeners.com/how-to/amaryllis-facts

www.softschools.com/facts/plants/amaryllis_facts