Buying Hints
Some Amaryllis rules of thumb: the larger the bulb, the more blooms you will get. The first season you have them they will bloom no matter what! If you buy an unpotted bulb, the container you choose must have drainage and the diameter of the container must be large enough so there is an inch of soil around the bulb. The pot must also be deep enough to accommodate two-thirds of the bulb plus plenty of room for root growth. Usually a six inch pot is sufficient, especially since Amaryllis like to be a little cramped. It **takes approximately 6 to 8 weeks from the potting of the bulb to bloom.**

Planting Instructions
Put enough potting mix into the pot so that you get approximately two-thirds of the bulb below the rim of the pot. Fill around the bulb with potting mix and gently firm it down. Water thoroughly until the liquid drains out of the bottom of the pot. Place the pot in a warm place (65º-70º) out of direct sunlight. Don’t water the bulb again until it starts growing, then water regularly when the soil is dry to the touch. Once it starts growing, move the pot to a sunnier window. If growth isn’t happening, DON’T rewater! Let it rest another two weeks or until it sprouts before watering again.

When the plant buds begins to show color, move the pot to a cooler spot out of direct sunlight. This will help your flowers to last longer. When the plant is done flowering (bloom time is approximately one month), cut the flower stem down to about 3”-5” above the bulb. Don’t cut the foliage! Treat the plant as a houseplant by watering it regularly when the surface is dry, keeping it in a sunny window, and fertilizing it with balanced water-soluble fertilizer once a month. You can either leave it in your window until fall or you can set the pot outside when danger of frost is over, gradually acclimating it to a higher light. Some people have had good results by directly planting their Amaryllis in the garden.
Storing Care

In the fall, store the bulb in a dry, cool (55º), dark place such as a basement or garage, for 1 – 2 months. You can store the bulb in one of several ways:

1. Leave the bulb in its pot, with the pot lying on its side to protect the crown from any moisture. Cut the foliage to just above the bulb. Do not water. When you take your bulb out of storage, you may want to replace the top inch or two with fresh soil. In actuality the bulb doesn’t need to be repotted for two or three years at a time.
2. Remove the bulb from its pot, cleansed of all soil and the foliage cut to just above the bulb. Bulb should be placed on its side to protect the crown from any moisture. After the month or two of storage repot the bulb and start the process as stated above.
3. If the bulb was directly planted in your garden, remove it from the soil, clean it off, cut the foliage to just above the bulb, and store it as in number two above.

Of all the flowering plants one can have indoors, there are few with flowers quite as stunning, and as able as those of the Amaryllis to brighten the grayest of days.