Paperwhite narcissus are native to warm climates. Unlike hardy/outdoor narcissus and other spring-blooming bulbs, they do not need a chilling period in order to bloom indoors.

Phase I (3-4 weeks)
Two different planting methods may be used:

1. Using a closed bottom container (no drainage holes), fill the container to within one inch of the top with pea gravel. Plant 3 bulbs in a 5” pot, 4-5 bulbs in a 6” pot and 7-9 bulbs in a 8” pot. Add another layer of gravel to the rim of the pot to assist in anchoring the bulbs. Fill the container with water to the base of the bulbs. Check the water level often. Continue to keep the water level just at the base of the bulbs as they grow.

2. Using a container with drainage holes, fill the container to within one inch of the top with well-drained soil. Plant the bulbs (same as above). Add a layer of pea gravel to the rim of the container to assist in anchoring the bulbs. Water when the soil is dry.

Regardless of the method of planting, keep cool (50º – 55 ºF) and dark until the top growth begins.

Phase II (usually 2-3 weeks)
When the shoots are about 2” tall, bring the pots into bright light to develop the flower stalks. Tall plants may need support; the brighter the light, the more compact they remain. Discard the bulbs after flowering since they are not hardy in our climate and will not flower again after being forced into bloom.