

Care for Potted Indoor Bulbs

(Hippeastrum, Paper Whites and Oxalis)

After your bulbs have been potted, follow these simple instructions to insure success.

1. Water them well. Depending on the dryness or wetness of the potting compost will determine how this is done. If the soil was moist when you planted, two or three good waterings, one right after the other should be enough. However, if the potting mix was dry, put the pot in your kitchen sink; pour water slowly over the soil. Let the pot sit in the water that runs out for at least $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.
2. Put the pot in a cool place for about 2 weeks (50-60 degrees) closet, garage, basement, attic are some examples. You should see roots coming out of the pot at the end of 2 weeks.
3. At that time, put the pot in an area with extra light and 'day length' by using grow lights or supplemental, cool florescent lighting 1' above the pot. If you want the flowers to come quicker, a heat mat or heating pad underneath the pot will help. Water again when you see green shoots coming from the top of the bulbs. Once the shoots are about 6" long, water about twice a week or when the soil feels dry. (the frequency will be determined by how warm and dry you keep your house).
4. After they have bloomed, take the paper whites out of the pot, but keep the Hippeastrum and oxalis in the pot with the compost. Keep them watered and in a bright, sunny location so the leaves can photosynthesize, making next year's bloom. Once danger of frost has past, put the bulbs in your garden, or on your patio to continue their growth throughout the summer.
5. If you want to force the hippeastrum again, in early September, take it and put it in a place where it will be dark and dry. Leave it there until early November. Then pot it up with fresh compost and start the process again!
6. OR, you may elect to leave the hippeastrum and oxalis in your garden to become part of your summer garden.

Good luck!

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