

Hippeastrum



Hippeastrum is a genus of plants belonging to Amaryllidaceae family. These plants are often called Amaryllis in stores and nurseries by mistake. The real Amaryllis refers to the single species Amaryllis Belladonna,

which is native to South Africa.

Of all the flowering bulbs, *Hippeastrum* bulbs are the easiest to bring to bloom either indoors or outdoor as long as the temperature is not below 5°C, over an extended period of time. They originated in South America's tropical regions. The large flowers and ease with which they can be brought to bloom make amaryllis popular and in demand worldwide. The plants come in many beautiful varieties including various shades of red, white, pink, salmon and orange. There are also many striped and multicolored varieties, usually combining shades of pink or red with white.

Quick Tips

- Avoid buying tender bulbs with green mold.
- Planting Period: October until the end of April.
- Flowering Period: Late December until the end of June.
- Flowering time is 7-10 weeks.
- Larger bulbs produce more flowers.
- Always store unplanted bulbs in a cool place between 5-10°C.



Preparation for Planting

The base and roots of the bulb should be placed in lukewarm water for a few hours. Remember, if you cannot

plant the bulbs immediately after receiving them, store them at a cool temperature between 5-10°C.

Planting

Plant bulbs in a nutritious potting compost, many are available pre-mixed. Plant the bulb up to its neck in the potting compost, being careful not to damage the roots. Press the soil down firmly to set the bulb securely in place after planting.

Placement and Watering

Plant the bulb, or place the potted bulb in a warm place with direct light since heat is necessary for the development of the stems. The ideal temperature is 68 to 70 degrees F. Water sparingly until the stem appears, then, as the bud and leaves appear, gradually water more. At this point, the stem will grow rapidly and flowers will develop after it has reached full growth.

Flowering Period

Bulbs will flower in 7-10 weeks as a general rule. In winter the flowering time will be longer than in spring. Set up your planting schedule between October and April with this in mind. To achieve continuous bloom, plant at intervals of 2 weeks for stunning color in your home or garden.

After-Bloom Care

After-Flowering. After the plants has stopped flowering, it can be made to flower again. Cut the old flowers from the stem after flowering, and when the stem starts to sag, cut it back to the top of the bulb.

Leaf Growth and Development. Continue to water and fertilize as normal all summer, or for at least 5-6 months, allowing the leaves to fully develop and grow. When the leaves begin to yellow, which normally occurs in the early fall, cut the leaves back to about 2 inches from the top of the bulb and remove the bulb from the soil.

Bulb Storage. Clean the bulb and place it in a cool (5-10°C), dark place such as the crisper of your refrigerator for a **minimum of 6 weeks**. **Caution:** Do not store bulbs in a refrigerator that contains apples, this will sterilize the bulbs. Store the bulbs for a minimum of 6 weeks.

Plant Again. After 6 weeks you may remove bulbs whenever you would like to plant them. Plant bulbs 8 weeks before you would like them to bloom.



Plum Pretty Sister

From "Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul" By Cynthia Brian

Justin was a climber. By one and a half, he had discovered the purple plum tree in the backyard, and its friendly branches became his favorite hangout. At first he would climb just a few feet and make himself comfortable in the curve where the trunk met the branches. Soon he was building himself a small fort and dragging his tractors and trucks up to their new garage.

One day when he was 2, Justin was playing in the tree as usual. I turned my back to prune the rosebush, and he disappeared. "Justin, where are you?" I hollered. His tiny voice called back, "Up here, Mommy, picking all the plums for you!"

I looked up in horror and disbelief. There was Justin on the roof of the house, filling his plastic bucket with the ripe juicy plums from his favorite tree.

When Justin was 3, I became pregnant. My husband and I explained to him that we were going to have another baby as a playmate for him.

He was very excited, kissed my tummy and said, "Hello, baby, I'm your big brother, Justin."

From the beginning he was sure he was going to have a little sister, and every day he'd beg to know if she was ready to play yet. When I explained that the baby wasn't arriving until the end of June, he seemed confused.

One day he asked, "When is June, Mommy?" I realized I needed a better explanation; how could a 3-year-old know what "June" meant? Just then, as Justin climbed to the top of the plum tree, he gave me the answer I was looking for . . . his special tree. "Justin, the baby is going to be born when the plums are ripe. You can keep me posted when that will be, okay?" I wasn't completely sure if I was on target, but the gardener in me was confident I'd be close enough.

Oh, he was excited! Now Justin had a way to know when his new baby sister would come to play. From that moment on, he checked the old plum tree several times a day and reported his findings to me. Of course, he was quite concerned in November when all the leaves fell off the tree.

By January, with the cold and the rains, he was truly worried whether his baby would be cold and wet like his tree. He whispered to my tummy that the tree was strong and that she (the baby) had to be strong too, and make it through the winter.

By February a few purple leaves began to shoot forth, and his excitement couldn't be contained. "My tree is growing, Mommy! Pretty soon she'll have baby plums, and then I'll have my baby sister."

March brought the plum's beautiful tiny white flowers, and Justin was overjoyed. "She's booming, Mommy!" he chattered, struggling with the word "blooming." He rushed to kiss my tummy and got kicked in the mouth.

"The baby's moving, Mommy, she's booming, too. I think she wants to come out and see the flowers."

So it went for the next couple of months, as Justin checked every detail of his precious plum and reported to me about the flowers turning to tiny beads that would become plums.

The rebirth of his tree gave me ample opportunity to explain the development of the fetus that was growing inside me. Sometimes I think he believed I had actually planted a "baby seed" inside my tummy, because when I drank water he'd say things like, "You're watering our little flower, Mommy!" I'd laugh and once again explain in simple terms the story of the birds and the bees, the plants and the trees.

June finally arrived, and so did the purple plums. At first they were fairly small, but Justin climbed his tree anyway to pick some plums off the branches where the sun dappled near the rooftop. He brought them

to me to let me know the baby wasn't ripe yet. I felt ripe! I was ready to pop! When were the plums going to start falling from that darn tree?

Justin would rub my tummy and talk to his baby sister, telling her she had to wait a little longer because the fruit was not ready to be picked yet. His forays into the plum tree lasted longer each day, as if he was coaxing the tree to ripen quickly. He talked to the tree and thanked it for letting him know about this important event in his life.

Then one day, it happened. Justin came running into the house, his eyes as big as saucers, with a plastic bucket full to the brim of juicy purple plums. "Hurry, Mommy, hurry!" he shouted. "She's coming, she's coming! The plums are ripe, the plums are ripe!" I laughed uncontrollably as Justin stared at my stomach, as if he expected to see his baby sister erupt any moment. That morning I did feel a bit queasy, and it wasn't because I had a dental appointment.

Before we left the house, Justin went out to hug his plum tree and whisper that today was the day his "plum pretty sister" would arrive. He was certain. As I sat in the dental chair, the labor pains began, just as Justin had predicted. Our "plum" baby was coming! I called my parents, and my husband rushed me to the hospital. At 6:03 p.m. on June 22, the day that will forever live in family fame as "Plum Pretty Sister Day," our daughter was born. We didn't name her Purple Plum as Justin suggested, but chose another favorite flower, Heather.

At Heather's homecoming, Justin kissed his new playmate and presented her with his plastic bucket, full to the brim with sweet, ripe, purple plums. "These are for you," he said proudly.

Justin and Heather are now teenagers, and the plum tree has become our bonding symbol. Although we moved from the home that housed Justin's favorite plum tree, the first tree to be planted in our new yard was a purple plum, so that Justin and Heather could know when to expect her special day.

Throughout their growing-up years, the children spent countless hours nestled in the branches, counting down the days through the birth of leaves, flowers, buds and fruit. Our birthday parties are always festooned with plum branches and baskets brimming with freshly-picked purple plums. Because as Mother Nature--and Justin--would have it, for the last 15 years, the purple plum has ripened exactly on June 22.

Wednesday, December 2 AGM and the annual Christmas potluck. Minutes from AGM last year is available in the January 2009 newsletter. Please bring finger foods and/or drinks for the potluck. Don't hesitate to invite your significant others to the potluck.

The meeting starts at 7 pm, Burnaby Village Museum, Main Building, on 2nd floor. Refreshment is served. All are welcome. Annual membership cost \$12. Members enjoy diverse gardening talk after the meeting, share various gardening interests, and enjoy 10% discount of regularly priced items at GardenWorks and some other nurseries by presenting their membership cards.



Many thanks to Norbert Wuensche for showing us the slides of his beautiful garden. Norbert belongs to the American Rhododendron Society. He has hybridized many kinds of varieties and initiated Adopt-a-Rhodo program. He gives Rhododendron presentations and workshops in our annual Rhodofest.

Out and About

BRAGS

2009 EXECUTIVE

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Judy Wellington
434-8287

Vice-President

Lanny Hui
415-4564

Treasurer

Lois Brown
298-6681

Secretary

Linda Cholette
298-9059

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433-4250

STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership

Anne Forsyth
298-6350

Nominations

Cheryl Fiddis
435-2801

Lois Brown

298-6681

Publicity

Lindsey McCann
439-1129

Rhododendron Festival

Wendy Thompson
420-6513

OTHER COMMITTEES

Garden Contest

Vacant

Garden Tour

Faye Kilpatrick
434-5921

Plant Sale

Lanny Hui
415-4564

Newsletter

Lanny Hui
415-4564

Anne & David Forsyth
298-6350

Raffle & Greeting

Sheila Chowdhury
298-1196

Refreshments

Helen Vaughan
299-2014

Speakers

Coni O'Neill
438-4626

Website

David Forsyth
298-6350

Now until December 23 and from December 26 to January 3, Heritage Christmas at Burnaby Village Museum. Experience Christmas traditions, past and present. Highlights include: Father Christmas takes time out from his busy schedule to listen to children's wishes. (Traditionally, Father Christmas represents the spirit of Christmas and is depicted as a lean man wearing a long robe.) ; Footlight Theatre's new play Eve and the Magic Statues, an original script written and directed by Ryan Erwin, will take audiences through an adventure in Fairytale- land; Baking in the Farmhouse every Sunday, before Christmas, visitors will be treated to the smells and tastes of baking - right from wood-stove in the kitchen at the Love Farmhouse;"Twelve Days of Christmas" scavenger hunt - Items mentioned in the song have been placed throughout the site: pick up your check list, locate all the items, and earn a small prize; musicians, entertainers, demonstrators, story tellers, community choirs and heritage crafts are also scheduled throughout the season. The schedule of entertainers will be posted online. For more information, contact Burnaby Village Museum at 604.297.4547.

November 26 to December 5, 2009 (or until sold out), 10 am to 4:30 pm daily, UBC Holiday Wreath Sale, Located inside the Plant Centre at the UBC Botanical Garden, 6804 SW Marine Drive, 604--822-4529. Fresh Christmas wreaths from UBC Botanical Garden. Prices range from \$35 to \$80 and fresh supplies arrive in the Shop in the Garden everyday between November 26 to December 5. All funds generated from the sale support research and educational activities at UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research.

December 2, 2009, 10am to 6pm for a special garden member appreciation event in the Shop in the Garden. Enjoy the unique selection of holiday items & Christmas atmosphere. Special discounts for garden members, refreshments and gift wrapping will all be available.

December 5 and 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m Wreath and centrepiece sale by VanDusen Dried Flower Arrangers.. Entrance Pavilion, *VBG

December 5, 8 to 12, and 15 to 19, Shiwasu Handmade Gifts Show and Sale at Nikkei Place, 6688 Southoaks Cr., Burnaby. Get ready for the holidays with gorgeous handmade crafts by local Japanese Canadian artists. Enjoy some complimentary cider and cookies during extended hours on December 10, 5-8pm. Artists include: Pac West, Yuko Yoshida (kimono fabric items) Flaming Angels, Miriam Melanson (Japanese pop art pillows) Oohcha, Karen Duffield (quality teas) Mary Anne Tateishi (paintings) Momoko Rodriguez (pottery) Lotus Miyashita (art, magnets, cards, jewelry) Sachi Yamabe (Paintings, magnets, jewelry) Setsuko Kaneda (felted scarves and bags) Lin Crane (handbags made with Japanese fabrics) Robert Shiozaki (Pottery) Natalie Purschwitz (felted scarves) Kimiko Hawkes (fabric kokeshi dolls and cards) Kyoko Yamaguchi (soap, lotion, earrings) moonfly designs, Kim Kalanj (paper crafts) and more...

December 5, 19, Saturdays, 10 am - 2 pm at WISE Hall, 1882 Adanac Street at Victoria Drive. Shop local in the Winter & Spring at our bi-weekly Winter Market . Alternate Saturdays. Next dates: January 16, 30 (please note no market on January 2), February 13, 27, March 13, 27, April 10, 24

December 6 and 20, Winter Farmers Markets at Port Moody Recreation Complex, 300 loco Rd., Port Moody. Fresh produce, bread meats, and fish. Crafts and homemade jams, jellies and pies. Meet our very own Janice Bobic in the market! Next dates: January 17 and 31, February 14 and 28, March 14 and 28, April 11 and 25.

December 11 to 24, December 26 to January 3, 2010, Festival of Lights. Evenings before Christmas feature choirs and Santa. After Christmas, Starchild and Company puppet show, The Sugar Plum Fairy's Garden. Members \$8.50, family \$26, non-members \$11.45, senior/youth \$8.30, children \$6.25, under 6 free. 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets available November 1 at the Garden Shop or Tickets Tonight (604-684-2787) *VGB

December 12, 2009, Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm, 14th Annual Holiday Market, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive, Admission: \$2 minimum donation. Local musicians, artisan demonstration, hot food on-site, fabulous gift raffle.

December 21, 2009, Winter Solstice Lantern Festival. 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, 578 Carrall St. 604-662-3207 The winter solstice marks the middle of winter, when the days begin to lengthen and the nights get shorter. Celebrate this longest night of the year in a classical garden with pines, bamboo and winter-flowering plum illuminated by hundreds of intricately hand-crafted lanterns. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden will host the 15th annual festival with live music, Chinese paintings and a special display of local children's glowing creations. Join the procession from the Strathcona Community Centre at 6 p.m. or meet it at the garden at 6:30 p.m. Entry by donation.