

Hyacinth

(Hyacinthus orientalis)

Hyacinth offers rich colors and a lovely scent when forced to bloom for indoor display.

Light

Place in the dark during dormancy. Offer medium light during budding and bloom. Needs high light after bloom for good leaf growth and tuber formation.

Water

Provide no water during dormancy. Water lightly to stimulate new growth. Water regularly during active growth.

Temperature

Maintain temperatures between 32 and 50 degrees during dormancy and not above 55 degrees during bud formation. Prefers cool temperatures during flowering, but tolerates average temperatures.

Comments

Buy the largest bulbs available. Because varieties bloom at different times, plant only one variety in each wide, shallow pot. Plant bulbs in fall no deeper than 3/4 inch. Water; set in cool (40 degrees), dark place--a refrigerator works well--for eight to 12 weeks. Keep barely moist until growth starts, then water regularly. Move into medium light and temperatures no higher than 55 degrees until buds form. Just before bloom, move into warmer area, if desired. Water and fertilize regularly until blooms fade and leaves yellow. Provide high light after blooming. When leaves die back, stop watering. Remove leaves. Store bulbs in pot or remove. Store in cool, dry place. Restart cycle in fall. Propagate by potting bulblets formed on parent bulb.