



Winter Sweetness: Paperwhite Narcissus

pretty paperwhite perfection

- A Paperwhite Narcissus is one of the easiest bulbs to force indoors, and will bloom within 3 - 4 weeks after planting.
- Choose a bright space for your Paperwhites out of direct sun.
- Paperwhites prefer a cooler temperature, so if possible, move plants to a cool spot during the evening hours.

potting up your paperwhites

- There are two ways to plant Paperwhite bulbs - using either potting soil or gravel.
- For both methods, choose a container that is at least 3" deep.
- For the prettiest display, use enough bulbs to fill the pot completely.

Soil Planting: Choose a container with drainage holes. Place the Paperwhite bulbs on top of about an inch of good-quality potting soil such as Espoma Organic Potting Mix. Cover the bulbs completely and firm the soil around bulbs. Water thoroughly. Vigorous roots will push the bulbs upwards so it is important to plant them deeply.

Gravel Planting: choose a water-tight container. Fill it with a few inches of gravel, sea glass, marbles or similar medium. Press the Paperwhite bulbs into the gravel, making sure that their tips are pointed directly upwards. If the tips are curved over a little don't worry, they will straight upwards when given some light.

care of your paperwhites

- Maintaining adequate water for Paperwhites is important, but depends on your potting method.
Soil Planting: Keep soil evenly moist. Continue watering until plants are done blooming.
Gravel Planting: Keep water level to just below the bottom of the bulb. Do not allow the water to be in contact with the base of the bulb, or the bulb could rot. Make sure, however, that the roots themselves are covered by water.
- To promote upright growth, rotate containers to avoid the Paperwhites leaning to their light source. Staking may be necessary – use a stake and a pretty ribbon around the foliage to add color as well as support!
- Cornell University researchers have discovered that using a 5% solution of alcohol will result in less floppy plants that are one-third to one-half shorter but with no change to the flower size, scent, or endurance. Use the gravel planting method with regular water until the shoot is about 1" – 2" high, then pour off the water and replace with either a 7 to 1 solution of water with a 40% distilled spirit (gin, vodka, whiskey, etc.) or a 11 to 1 solution of water with 70% rubbing alcohol. Just make sure you dilute your alcohol to 5%, or your Paperwhites will overdose!
- Paperwhite flowers last for a very long time, but the bulbs unfortunately will not re-bloom, so dispose of bulbs after blooming.
- Keep additional Paperwhite bulbs at the ready to have successive blooming all winter long. Keep bulbs in a paper sack in a cool, dark environment. Pot up at intervals of 3 weeks to have overlapping weeks of lovely flowers