

Indoor Hyacinth Bulbs

There is one thing to remember about hyacinths – beware when handling the bulbs, as they are quite toxic. If you touch your face after touching the bulbs they can leave a very irritating itchy sensation, so wear gloves or wash your hands well after planting.

These hyacinths are specially prepared for early forcing. You can either plant in pots in bulb fibre, or, they can be placed in glass hyacinth forcing vases with the water just below the bottom of the bulb. When potting leave the tip of the bulb above soil level and water when required to ensure that the fibre does not dry out.

With either method, they should then be placed in the cold and dark until around the 8th November to flower within 35-40 days, with a temperature below 10°C so that the root has time to develop before the light pulls the flower and leaves from the bulb. If you've got a garage or dark corner of a potting shed, this is easy enough to do. Keep in the dark until the shoots are 3cm (1in) high then bring the pots/vases inside to a cool room to allow the leaves to develop and turn green. Then move them closer to a light window, but try and avoid radiators.

To stop the stems and leaves flopping about it's a good idea to create a nest of twigs to support them.

After they have finished flowering, the bulbs can be planted outside in the garden, where they should flower again the following year.