

Paperwhite Planting Guide

Supplies:

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| (1) Bulb | (1) Glass Mason Jar |
| (1) Bag of Sand | (1) Bag of Brown Gravel |
| (1) Bag of White Gravel | |

Instructions:

1. Fill the bottom of the mason jar with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of sand
2. Next, pour about a half inch of brown gravel over the sand.
3. Place the bulb on top of the gravel and gently press down.
4. Pour about another $\frac{1}{4}$ of the brown gravel over the bulb.
5. Take the white gravel and pour between a quarter to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch over the bulb. This will depend on each person's individual mason jar project.
6. Be sure to leave about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of the bulb about the gravel layers.
7. Store in a dark lit place for 10 days and then move the jar to a sunny area of your home.

Watering Directions:

- Water the bulb by slowly pouring water down the side of the jar until you can see all layers of the container saturated. Due to the jar not having drainage- you DO NOT have to water daily. Most bulbs enjoy being watered every 3 to 4 days depending on the temperature of the room they are placed in.
- You will see during the next few weeks a stem emerge from the top of the bulb. A bloom will appear anywhere between 2-3 weeks, again depending on the location of the plant in your home.
- Once the paperwhite blooms, you will notice the stem has grown very long. You may use a stick or wooden skewer to secure the plant by pressing the holder into the gravel and then binding it to the stem (about half way up) with a piece of string or bread tie.



Paperwhite Bulb Fun Facts

Symbolic of “hope” and “faith” and is the official flower for all December birthdays.

With Valentine’s Day coming up, if your sweetheart isn’t into roses, you can always gift them a bouquet of narcissus which can also symbolize the meaning that you want your beloved to stay just the way they are.

*Named after the Greek myth of Narcissus, a vain fellow who fell in love with his own reflection and wasted away staring into a pool’s mirror surface until the god’s took pity and turned him into a flower.

The species is native to Europe and Asia, although now Paperwhites are grown all around the world.

There are both indoor and outdoor varieties of paperwhite bulbs. Today, we are using the indoor variety. Unfortunately, they do not re-bloom.

If you like this flower, you can find outdoor bulbs which are possible to regrow (depending on the climate and soil) and will also generate multiple blooms. Outdoor Paperwhites need well drained soil/gravel mix.

The bulbs require a hot, dry summer in order to produce a good show of flowers the following year. For this reason, they are considered perennials only in Southern California and parts of Texas.

There are 40 different species of Narcissus—and thousands of varieties. The most common narcissus bulb is called “Grand Primo” which is an outdoor bulb.

Paperwhites are the most fragrant of the daffodil family, with a distinctive sweet smell. Narcissus and daffodil are the same flower (despite what snobs say).

Paper Whites and Amaryllis can both be easily forced into bloom without any cold treatment, but unlike amaryllis, paperwhites cannot be saved to bloom again.

Paperwhites will bloom for about 2 weeks. After that, snip off the faded flowers and either enjoy the green leaves as a houseplant for a few more weeks or drop the bulbs and leaves in the compost pile.

Mix a little gin, vodka, whiskey, rum or tequila into its water and watch its petals spread. These flowers are an equal opportunity drinker, which is a rare fun fact about the species.