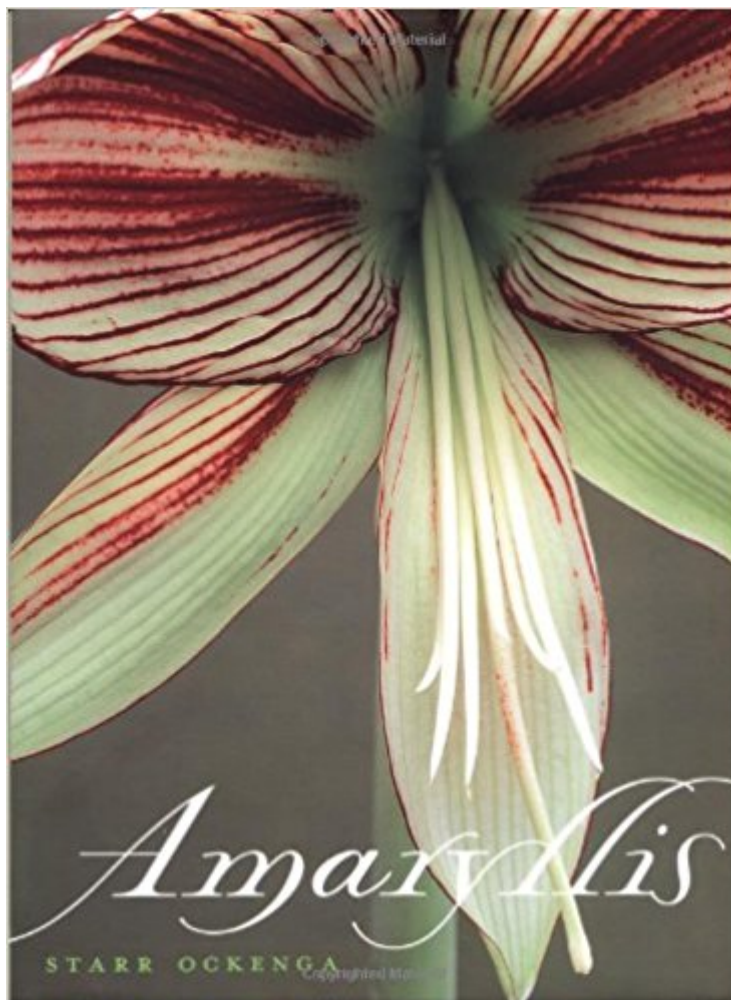


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Amaryllis



Synopsis

The amaryllisâelegant, tropical, and breathtakingly beautifulâis the most majestic of all the flowering bulbs. Its distinctive look, long-lasting blooms, and ease of cultivation have made it a favorite of plant lovers and a fixture in their homes around the world throughout the winter months. Now, award-winning photographer Starr Ockenga brings us *Amaryllis*, a comprehensive exploration of the beauty, history, and cultivation of this singular flower. A unique photographic record of a diverse and alluring plant, *Amaryllis* is a document of the season that Ockenga spent growing more than ninety varieties in her upstate New York greenhouse. From the papery surface of the bulb to glorious flower to spent bloom, Ockengaâs remarkable photographs capture all the sensuality and drama of the amaryllis. Her images demonstrate the flowerâs extraordinary range of color and form, from the iridescent velvety-red âBasutoâ to the brilliantly striped âJaguarâ and the awkward grace of âGiraffeâsâ long stem and delicate flower. More than a collection of stunning flower portraits, *Amaryllis* offers practical wisdom on growing these plants. Gardeners will appreciate Ockengaâs expert insights on storage, propagation, and hybridization, and new plant enthusiasts will learn how simple it is to grow amaryllis from the bulb or to display its cut flowers. With fascinating information on the historical background of the amaryllis, details on its horticultural requirements, and an illustrated glossary of almost 100 varieties, *Amaryllis* is the authoritative guide to the queen of flowering bulbs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

One winter, photographer Ockenga (*Earth on her Hands*) set up a greenhouse in the Hudson River Valley to ward off the cold and soothe her ache for some exotic warmth. Though she bought

orchids, freesias and other tropicals, she soon developed an obsession with one bright flower, the amaryllis, and amassed 350 plants comprising over 90 varieties. Restricting herself to natural light and a single camera, lens and film type, she set out to document her flowers, their "architectural stature, brilliant wardrobes, and enigmatic personalities." The resulting book is lovely and purposeful, lacking spontaneity but not passion. Amateur and professional bulb enthusiasts will find lots to appreciate, including chapters on amaryllis history, botany, care, and cultivation. Throughout this slim volume, Ockenga focuses her lens on every stage of amaryllis life, from oniony bulb to withered stalk. A glossary of hybrids, illustrated with almost 100 exquisite photos, includes flowers like "Masai" and "Star of Holland," whose names hint at their origins, and "Red Peacock" and "Sunrise," named for their spectacular colors. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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Will help you grow Amaryllis. Great pictures.

What a terrific book! It's so much more than the gorgeous photographs for which the author is well-known -- it has lots of information on cultivation and propagation plus there is a glossary with

pictures of 96 different hybrids complete with growing information (type, height/flower size and time from planting until flowering). The author also includes a history of the cultivation of amaryllis which is very interesting -- she documents descriptions and instructions for growing beginning with Milton in 1637 through the Victorian and Edwardian periods to today. She describes the three main sources of bulbs (African, Dutch and South American) and discusses both older varieties and newer cultivars including the miniatures and those with double flowers. Amaryllis come in a large variety of patterns within a color range consisting of red, white, pink and, more recently, peach, pale green, yellow and orange. Ockenga provides beautiful, lyrical descriptions: "'Cinderella' boasts kitten whiskers drawn on an upturned face, 'Charisma' is speckled with cranberry dots that fade to a creamy background, while 'Elvas' and 'Allure' seem splashed with the juice of sweet cherries." The book concludes with a list of suppliers (with web addresses) and an extensive bibliography. This is a great book for anyone interested in growing amaryllis, particularly given that there is nothing else like it on the market today. Note, however, that Ockenga grows her amaryllis in pots in her greenhouse in New York; she includes information on growing amaryllis in the ground but the bulk of the growing information is with regard to pot-grown bulbs. Much of this is generic to both kinds of cultivation, however, as is the information on pests and diseases, feeding and watering schedules, etc. This is, quite simply, a wonderful book.

Beautifully photographed this book is inspirational as well as informative. I am a beginner in the care of Amaryllis and this book has given me the basics and more to take care of these amazing plants.

Excellent book for hobbyists. Great photos and written in an easy to understand manner. The perfect reference book.

If you like Amaryllis, you will love this book. Great photos that are just as good as the plant. The only work to see a fantastic amaryllis is to turn to the next page, even though it may be hard to leave the page you're viewing. You can always turn back the pages and start over.

This is a beautiful book on amaryllis. It is worth the price if for no other reason than the pictures of the flowers.

Great

Great resource for all the many amaryllis bulbs available.

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