

## PAPERWHITES

By Wendy Sanchez, a CPVGC past president

Paperwhite narcissus bulbs do not need chilling.

Fill decorative container with potting medium to 1" below the top. Use coarse sand/gravel if your pot has no drainage holes. Use potting soil if the pot has holes.

For gravel pots, add water to just below the top of the gravel. Put in bulbs. Add gravel to cover bottom ¼ of the bulbs. Keep moist.

In potting soil pot, fill pot halfway with soil, set the bulbs gently in and pack more soil around the bulbs, leaving the tips visible. Water the bulbs thoroughly, allowing time for the soil to absorb enough water so it is thoroughly soaked. Keep soil relatively moist, but not soaked.

Put in cool dim or dark place 50-55 degrees until well rooted and shoots are 2" tall. This will keep the paperwhites from getting too leggy. Move to a cool, direct sun area until flowers appear. Then remove from the direct sun to prolong flowering time. Keep moist.

Paperwhites can also be grown in water. Use a hyacinth vase for water culture and follow the directions for light exposure above.

### Paperwhites Planting Calendar

<b>Plant by:</b>	<b>For Blooms by:</b>
Sept 11	Halloween
Sept 27	Election Day
Oct 13	Thanksgiving
Oct 29	Hanukkah
Nov 9	Winter Solstice (12-21)
Nov 13	Christmas
Nov 19	New Year's Eve

Starting bulbs in warmer temps will speed the above calendar



For indoor color and fragrance, you can begin growing paperwhites from September through November. For continuous bloom from Halloween through New Year's Day, start a saucer, dish, bowl or vase of paperwhites every two weeks beginning September 11<sup>th</sup>.