

TIPS
FROM OUR
TEAM

In the SUNSET GARDEN

KNOW-HOW Grow a gift

Coax amaryllis bulbs out of dormancy now so they'll be ready to give by the holidays. Here's how.



Fill a glass vase with a 3-inch layer of pebbles. Nestle an amaryllis bulb on top, adding a few more stones if needed for stability.



Add water just below the bulb; make sure the level remains consistent.



Place bulb on a sunny windowsill or other warm, bright spot to force the bulb out of dormancy.



"This system keeps the birds away but gives us easy access to our cool-season crops."

JOHANNA SILVER,
ASSOCIATE GARDEN EDITOR



PLANT NOW

FALL IN A POT

The semidwarf 'Chi-Chi' has the same autumnal good looks as a standard ginkgo but tops out at just 4 feet tall (as opposed to 100 feet!). We keep ours in a white pot to brighten up gray days. From \$55 for an 8-inch-tall tree; wildwoodmaples.com.



TIP OF THE MONTH

Safety net

Each fall in the Test Garden, we cover our vegetables with bird netting—and trip over the tangle of stakes and mesh all season. This year, garden design assistant Lauren Hoang came up with a tidier alternative: Create arches using bendable masonry reinforcement ladders (sold in 10-foot-long sections at hardware stores). Sink sharp ends into soil; drape netting on top and secure all sides by pushing landscape staples through netting into soil.



WE'RE LOVING ... BEE HAVEN

Wanting to do their part for the disappearing population of mason bees, landscape designers Caitlin and Owen Black crafted these houses out of Brazilian hardwood left over from their deck projects. Nesting tubes attract the native bees (who are super pollinators, visiting 17 blooms per minute). Attach to the southwest side of a fence post or house, ideally with a little overhead protection from the elements. \$66; worldreclaimed.com.