

In February, water an indoor hyacinth when the soil surface has dried, and allow extra water to drain from the pot. Aim for soil that stays slightly moist rather than soaked, and keep water off the bulb itself.

Test the potting mix first

Press a finger into the mix close to the pot's rim. When the top feels dry, water the plant; if it feels moist, leave it and test again after a day or two.

Use the soil as your guide instead of following a set routine. Soil in a small container can dry sooner than soil in a larger one. Warm indoor air also speeds drying compared with a cool room, and a spot beside a radiator may call for more frequent checks. The month's outdoor weather does not determine how much water an indoor plant needs.

Pour gradually around the inside edge of the pot. Avoid wetting the bulb's exposed top or pouring into the middle of the leaves. Stop once water flows from the drainage openings. Give the pot time to drain, then pour away any water collected in its saucer or outer cover.

A container without drainage holes needs especially careful watering. Check the mix first and add only a little water at a time, because excess cannot run out and may leave the bulb in waterlogged soil. If the plant sits in a removable nursery pot, take it out of the decorative cover before watering and let it drain before putting it back.

Set the water level for bulbs in vases

Some hyacinths are grown indoors in slim glass vases, with their roots in water. Keep the water just below the bulb's base so the roots can reach it, but do not let the bulb rest in the water.

Look at the level regularly and add water when needed. Replace the water if it turns cloudy, taking care not to pull or damage the roots. If residue has formed inside the vase, clean it before adding fresh water.

As the plant grows, place it somewhere bright and cool. Check the vase more often if the room is warm, since water may evaporate faster. Filling the vase to its top is unnecessary.

Change your routine after the blooms fade

After flowering ends, cut off the finished flower stalk but keep the leaves. Green foliage continues to provide food for the bulb.

For a hyacinth growing in a pot, keep checking the soil and water once its surface dries. As the leaves yellow and die, ease back on watering over time. Stop once all the foliage has died and the bulb is dormant.

For a bulb grown in water, keep the water below the bulb and make sure the roots do not dry while the leaves are still green.

In February, check the soil or vase rather than watering simply because of the date. A brief inspection gives a better indication of what the plant needs than a calendar routine.

For more detail, see details here