



Helleborus care

They are native to central and south Europe where they grow in poor soils in mountain regions. These plants are very tough and need little care. They are hardy to zone 4-9, Helleborus are easy to care for, evergreen and fully hardy. Developing an upright habit, they form clumps of up to 1m in diameter. Planting them in the right spot in your garden and taking good care of them, guarantees they will flower in the winter and spring for years and years to come. This herbaceous or evergreen perennial is disliked by deer and other animal pests prone to munching on plants. All parts of the hellebore plant are poisonous, so take care to keep children and pets away.

Where to plant:

Helleborus prefers a partially shaded place that protects them from the midday sun in the summer. Deciduous shrubs or trees are perfect neighbors for them. Morning sun and afternoon shade is preferred for the Helleborus, but they can handle some sunlight in the afternoon, as they are grown outdoors.

When to plant:

If you can get a shovel in the ground, you can plant your Helleborus! For the spring time, be careful about potential frost from the cold spring weather- if you have not planted your helleborus, they can be kept in a cool environment for several weeks.

How to fertilize:

Helleborus are long-lived perennials. If they like the place where they have been put, they will stay there for many years. All varieties prefer rich and chalky soils but will also thrive in other locations that are not prone to waterlogging. Helleborus plants do not require any fertilizer in their first spring. Feed older plants from February onwards and apply a second dressing of fertilizer in midsummer, when the plants grow new roots and initiate flower buds for the next season. Care for helleborus should also include careful fertilization. Too much nitrogen may result in lush foliage and a shortage of blooms.

How to prune:

Removing dead flowers from hellebores during the flowering season is normally not necessary; the slightly pink or green tones the flowers take on as they fade actually extend the flowering season in winter. Remove the seed pods before they open, as offspring plants normally don't flower well and might suppress the original plants.

Leaves:

With Lenten Roses, it is recommendable to remove all leaves before the plants start to flower in December and January (when budding stems are approximately 10 cm in height). The old and brown leaves of Christmas Roses and Snow Roses can best be removed in the spring and summer.

Frequently asked questions:

Do helleborus spread? Yes, helleborus will self-sow. However, allowing them to do so may result in unexpected hybrids if you grow multiple types in close proximity. Thin out any new seedlings that are too close to mature plants. Expect self-sown plants to flower after three years.

Do helleborus need to be divided? It's not usually necessary for the health of the plant; but if you wish to divide them, this is best done in fall. Helleborus can be fussy about being dug up and moved, so it's generally just best to leave them be.