

LANDSCAPE DESIGNS NURSERY



3290 Elvehjem Rd.
McFarland, WI 53558
Nursery: 608-490-1820 Office: 608-233-4215
www.landscapedesigns.bz

Helleborus - Hellebores

Helleborus belong to the Ranunculaceae - the Buttercup Family, to which Peony is a member.

There are about 15-20 species native to Europe and Western Asia.

They are bushy in growth with near evergreen palmately (hand-shaped) deeply-cut or divided thick leaves.

The various shades of green to blueish-green leaves often have coarsely serrated edges along with silver, marbling or variegation.

The beautiful foliage patterns are just about as diverse as the flowers, with each color or cultivar having almost its own distinct foliage.

Depending upon Spring, they often will be blooming in Late March and continuing through April and into in May. Since the flowers don't have true petals, the sepals are the very showy parts of the flowers.

This also allows for the flowers to exhibit good coloring for much of their flowering season. The petals are reduced to an inner collar of nectar glands. On some cultivars, these glands have been selected to become quite showy, bringing another dynamic to some cultivars.

They are very tolerant of most any garden soil except for heavy wet clays.

Being very tolerant of deciduous medium to light shade, they can be quite a magnificent site blooming in the naturalized to formal garden. I would avoid planting them in hot afternoon direct sun.

They dislike being wet and will often rot from excessive moisture.

When planting, be careful not to cover their crowns with soil.

When mulching, I recommend very little mulch if any over the crowns, as this can also lead to rotting.

When mulching the garden, I recommend flagging their locations before mulching, to prevent covering the crowns with mulch as well to prevent stepping on the crowns.

They can make good cut flowers if they are cut with the longest stems possible. Recut about 1" off the bottom of the stems while the stems are under water. The foliage also makes excellent cut foliage when treated the same way.

I never cut away the old foliage on the 20 or so Helleborus I have in my garden, I just allowing it to become part of the in-situ compost. Other gardeners just cannot tolerate the old winter damaged leaves laying on the ground, surrounding the bouquet of spring flowers erupting from the center. To me, it's part of the garden. Apparently, removing the old foliage does not make any difference to the health of the plants.



They do respond to a good quality time release fertilizer, especially when applied in the autumn - since they grow so early in the spring. I fertilize mine with our PLGF - Perennial Landscape and Garden Fertilizer.

If you must divide them, do it in the spring as soon as the earth is thawed. They rarely, if ever, *require* division.

Some of the cultivars we carry include:

Their approximate heights are indicated, while their widths, with age, are often 24-36" or so.

Helleborus Blushing Bridesmaid - 2" Double flowers; White with raspberry edge and veins
Helleborus California Dreaming HONEYMOON series - single yellow flowers; 18-24", 18-24"
Helleborus Cherry Blossom - nodding light pink flowers, dark pink edge/center; 18-22"
Helleborus Confetti Cake WEDDING PARTY - Double white flowers, burgundy specks; 18-22"
Helleborus First Dance WEDDING PARTY Series - yellow flowers; maroon margin; 24"
Helleborus French Kiss HONEYMOON - sing White flowers, pink veins and back; 18-24"
Helleborus HCG Ice N Roses Red - rosy-red flowers w yellow ctr; 12"
Helleborus HGC Camelot - pink and cream flowers; 15"
Helleborus HGC Love Bug - upward White flowers w/ lime centers; blue purple foliage; 10"
Helleborus Ivory Prince (Lenten Rose) - upright ivory; 12-18"
Helleborus Maid of Honor WEDDING PARTY series - Double light-dark pink flowers; H24"
Helleborus n. Snowbells - Double; White flowers; early flowers; 10-12"
Helleborus Picotee Pearl - White single flowers w pink and White center; 18-22"
Helleborus Pink Frost - upright pink flowers; 12-14"
Helleborus Romantic Getaway - single flowers; White edge, red pattern centers; 18-24"
Helleborus Rome in Red HONEYMOON - single maroon/wine flowers; 18-24"
Helleborus Sandy Shores HONEYMOON - sing pale apricot flowers, burgundy center; 18-24"
Helleborus Spanish Flare HONEYMOON - sing light yellow flowers, burgundy center; 18-24"
Helleborus Tropical Sunset - cream-yellow single flowers with burgundy vein/edge; 18-24"
Helleborus True Love WEDDING PARTY - Double maroon flowers; 18-24"
Helleborus Vegas Nights - single ppl-gray flowers; compact 18-24"
Helleborus Wedding Bells - Double White flowers; 24'

Helleborus Wedding Crasher - Double soft pink flowers; dark pink spots; 24"

Helleborus Winter Jewel Double Slate - black flowers; light green leaves; 18"

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