

Niagara College Greenhouse & Nursery Success Sheet No. 1

Helleborus niger *Christmas Rose*

History

Often known as Christmas Rose or Lenten Rose due to the fact that it blooms late fall into the early winter. Commonly used in an outdoor perennial garden it should be planted near a window so that it can be appreciated indoors. It is very well suited to be grown indoors to be enjoyed during the holiday season.

Light

Place your Hellebore near a window that receives morning light and afternoon shade.

Temperature

Helleborus like cool temperatures. Try to keep them around 18°C while flowering. Once finished flowering put them in an unheated garage for the remainder of the winter, they will need a dormant period in order to rebloom next year.

Watering

While your Helleborus is flowering check the soil daily. When it is dry to the touch, add water until it runs out of the drainage holes in the bottom of the pot. If you have placed your hellebore in a decorative pot or foil wrapper, be sure to drain any water that collects in it. Don't leave your plant standing in water as overly wet soil can

lead to root rot. After it has finished blooming water less.

Gardening tips

When planting Helleborus outside, it is recommended to plant in the spring, with about 12 – 15 cm separation between plants. Hellebores are best grown in small groups as a woodland shady border underneath deciduous trees. The plant does best in well drained fertile soil in a dappled shade with no foot traffic. Hellebores can be propagated from seed which require 3-6 weeks of freezing temperatures prior to germination. After the freezing temperatures have been achieved, seeds can be brought inside and should germinate quickly. They can also be divided in the spring.

Hellebores are heavy feeders and appreciate a feeding of 10-10-10 fertilizer monthly.

Hellebores are relatively pest free plants. They can occasionally have an infestation of aphids and some fungal leaf spots but are not going to dramatically affect the plants survival.

M. Adam Desjardins class of 2015

Niagara College Greenhouse & Nursery

Niagara-on-the-Lake Campus, 135 Taylor Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0
phone: (905) 641-2252, ext. 4082; fax: (905) 988-4307 e-mail: mnewell@niagaracollege.ca
Website: <http://greenhousenursery.niagaracollege.ca>