

Hellebores

Hellebores are invaluable winter- and spring-flowering perennial plants that no garden should be without. Their large saucer-shaped flowers bring a splash of colour when gardens may otherwise look bare and colourless. Their early flowers are also much appreciated by early bees and other pollinating insects.

J00265 *Helleborus niger* 'Snowdrift' is a Christmas rose with large winter flowers that have a second layer of petals, creating gorgeous double blooms.
'Snowdrift' Height 35cm (14in), Spread 35cm (14in).

J00266, J00267, J00268 The flowers of double-flowered Lenten roses contain more petals giving blooms with more colourful impact and flower power. 'Double Green' produces green flowers, tinted with a little creamy-yellow. 'Double Purple' has flowers in a moody, smoky purple colour. 'Double White' has flowers close to pure white.
Double Hellebores Height 35cm (14in), Spread 25cm (10in).

J00269 *Helleborus* 'Pink Ballerina' is a new variety of Lenten rose that will bring delightful colour to your garden in late winter and spring. It produces numerous fully double, soft pink flowers that gently nod outwards.
'Pink Ballerina' Height 35cm (14in), Spread 35cm (14in).

Your plants on arrival

When your plants arrive, open the packaging fully, carefully lift out the plants, remove any packaging, and water them if the compost seems dry. They can be planted into their growing/flowering positions straight away. If you can't plant straight away, put the plants somewhere cool and sheltered outdoors until you can plant them.

Planting out

Water thoroughly immediately before planting. Watering with Flower Power at half the recommended dilution will help get plants off to the perfect start. Hellebores prefer positions in partial or light shade.

Growing in beds and borders

In beds and borders, hellebores grow best in moist but well-drained soil that doesn't dry out.

Dig the planting hole at least twice the size of the pot, sprinkle some compost in the bottom and, ideally, add some Root Booster or Easy Feed fertiliser before planting. Pop the plant in the planting hole, adding a bit more compost if needed so that the top of the rootball is at the same level as the soil, and add more compost around the sides of the plant. Gently firm in with your fingers or the end of a trowel or hand fork and water in thoroughly with 4.5 litres (1 gallon) of water per plant, ideally using a dilute plant food like Flower Power.

Growing in pots

If growing in pots, use a good multi-purpose compost – my Premium Multi-Purpose Compost and Premium Peat-Free Compost are ideal – or multi-purpose compost with added John Innes. To help plants establish extra quickly, water in with a dilute plant food, such as Flower Power.

Growing on

- Water thoroughly whenever necessary to prevent the compost or soil drying out, especially during the first three months after planting while the plants are establishing.
- It is important to give each plant enough water that gets to the bottom of the roots. Giving plants in the ground around 4.5-9 litres (1-2 gallons) of water per week is far better than watering little and more frequently. Plants in pots and other containers will probably need watering more frequently. Water whenever the compost starts to dry out (the compost will turn light brown in colour) and give enough water that it just starts to trickle out of the drainage holes.
- If the soil or compost dry out this will affect flowering.
- Feed plants regularly with a high potash, liquid plant food, such as Flower Power, through spring and summer, from two to four weeks after planting out. This really helps produce stronger, healthier plants with more flowers.
- Deadhead plants, removing faded flowers and any developing seed heads, as soon as they finish flowering. This prevents them wasting energy on producing seeds and helps them concentrate their energy on producing bigger, better plants. Cut down the flower stems to the base of the plant. If you want to save seed, keep one seed head per plant, as they produce a lot of seeds; plants from seed may not come true to type and may differ from the parent plant. Old, damaged, or discoloured leaves can be removed at any time, but particularly prior to flowering.
- Mulch the soil around the plants, with a 5-7.5cm (2-3in) deep layer of organic matter, in autumn, making sure the soil is moist before putting down the mulch.

J00265	J00269	J00266, J00267, J00268
UK Plant Passport	UK Plant Passport	UK Plant Passport
A Helleborus niger	A Helleborus x hybridus	A Helleborus x hybridus
B 130137	B 130137	B 130137
C 2021160201	C 2021160202	C 2021160204, 2021160205, 2021160206
D GB	D GB	D GB