

Helleborus argutifolius

Cultivation information Helleborus argutifolius

Our Helleborus argutifolius is a one-year crop. Plants that are potted in April/May will bloom for the greater part the following year during February and March. H. argutifolius is an evergreen plant. During the summer a rosette is formed, from which the flower bunch appears in February/March. H. argutifolius produces multiple flowers from a rosette. More and more flowers will bloom and after a few weeks the total number of flowers can easily reach over 20. Besides flowering the H. argutifolius is also available in a green colour in autumn.

Please note that Cultivation information and description are based on Dutch growing conditions.

Potting:

In April/May, in 15 cm pot or larger. Pot 1 or more plants in a pot. Preferably use a tree container with a cross bottom. Ebb and flow containers are not suitable. Do not pot the plant too deep in case of possible foot rot. The top of the plug should approximately be on one level with the soil but the plant must stand firmly so it will not fall over.

Soil - type:

Use well-drained and well-aired soil. The soil should not stay too moist, but should be able to be easily moistened too. Especially when grown outside the soil must dry quickly after rain. Use a fertilizer such as Osmocote in the beginning of the cultivation.

Watering:

Always give water on top! Watering underneath can because disease such as Pythium and Phytophthora and can result in high % of loss in this Helleborus. To grow the plants in the first week you must keep the soil moist. Of course the soil should not dry out too much. The combination of too dry and then too wet is disastrous for Helleborus argutifolius. Make sure the container fields are well-drained so no puddles remain.

Spacing:

When the plants grow too close to each other, space them in the summer or autumn. This will result in fuller pots.

Fertilizing:

Especially at the beginning of the crop carefully fertilize with a fertilizer mix such as Crystal Talon Blue (19-6-20). Watch out: too much fertilizer results in too much stretching and lush plant growth. Be very careful with the fertilizer, especially the first months of growing, so the plant will not grow too long and bulky.

Outdoor growing:

For Helleborus argutifolius outdoor cultivation is preferable to greenhouse, possibly in a shaded area. The bright sun can sometimes cause sun burning on the young leaves. Outdoor cultivation provides a more compact and stocky plant. In the winter there is a possibility of damage caused by frost, hail and snow. In the winter it is better to grow plants in a frost-free greenhouse or the plants should be well-protected from the weather.

Greenhouse cultivation:

Helleborus argutifolius can also be cultivated in a shaded greenhouse. In a greenhouse with no shading you have a high potential for root problems due to the high temperatures, especially in the summer. Plants grown in the greenhouse have a greater tendency to stretch. It is certainly needed to restrain this stretching in time to keep the plant compact.

Growth retardant (PGR):

The plant must have a compact rosette and **should not stretch too much**. It is intended that the plant remains a compact rosette. Once the plant is stretching you must restrain this with the conventional restraining means. Alar 64 with a concentration of 40 gram per 10 liter together with 5 ml Tilt (attention! Only an admission against leaf spot) works very good. This is only needed a few times at the start of the growing. When growth retardant is overdone the rosette will not grow enough and it is likely that this has an adverse effect on the flowering.

Pinching:

Do not pinch the Helleborus argutifolius.

Diseases:

Helleborus argutifolius can be susceptible to root diseases. This can be controlled with, for example, Rhizolex, Ridomil Gold, Aaterra or Previcur. Also leaf spots are a frequent disease. Spray the leaves regular with, for example, Daconil, Topsin or Rovral. This helps to prevent rot and leaf spot and is especially important after July. Note: Daconil shows residue on the leaves.

Insects:

Helleborus argutifolius is particularly susceptible to leaf aphids. White fly and spider mite are also common pests. Trips will not damage the leaf but it can damage the flowers in the winter.

Weed/Moss:

Moss can be controlled with Mogeton, although this may cause some damage to Helleborus argutifolius in the form of leaf burn.

*A clean environment always works positive on a good plant development and reduces the risk of diseases. **Also we recommend spacing the plants properly in time.***

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