

## **Helleborus Foetidus**

### **Cultivation information Helleborus Foetidus**

Helleborus foetidus is a one-year crop. Plants that are potted in April/May will flower for the greater part the following year during February and March. H. foetidus is an evergreen plant. A flower appears from the leaf rosette between January and March. H. foetidus produces multiple flowers from a rosette. More flowers will appear and after a few weeks the total number of flowers can easily reach over 20. This will make the plant a bit higher.

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

#### **Potting:**

In April/May, in 15 cm pot or larger. 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 soil level, but has to be planted 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 moistened easily too. In the beginning of the cultivation a fertilizer can be used.

#### **Watering:**

**Always give water on top!** Watering underneath can cause diseases such as Pythium and Phytophthora and can result in a high percentage of loss of plants. In the first week of growing the soil should be kept moist. The combination of too dry and then too wet is disastrous for Helleborus foetidus. Take care that the container field is 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 Crystalon Blue (19-6-20). Too much fertilizer results in too much stretching and lush plant growth. Be careful with the fertilizer, especially after the first months of growing, so that the plant will not grow too long and bulky.

#### **Outdoor growing:**

Preferably grow Helleborus Foetidus outside instead of in the greenhouse, or possibly in a shaded area. In the winter there is a possibility of damage caused by frost, hail and/or snow. In the winter it is better to grow the plants in a frost-free greenhouse or the plants must be well-protected against winter weather.

#### **Greenhouse growing:**

Helleborus foetidus can also be grown in a shaded greenhouse. In a greenhouse without shading there is a high potential for root problems due to high temperatures, especially in summer. Plants grown in the greenhouse do have a tendency to stretch earlier.

**Growth Retardent (PGR):**

The plant must have a compact rosette and **should not stretch too much**. As soon as the plant starts to stretch a growth retardent solution such as Alar should be used.

**Pinching:**

**Do not** pinch Helleborus foetidus.

**Diseases:**

Helleborus foetidus can be susceptible to root diseases. This can be controlled with, for example, Rhizolex, Ridomil Gold, Aaterra or Previcur. Leaf spots also frequently occur. Spray the leaves a couple of times with, for example, Daconil. This is especially important after July. Note: Daconil shows residue on the leaves.

**Insects:**

Helleborus foetidus can be susceptible to spider mite. This can cause a lot of damage. White fly and leaf aphids are also common pests.

**Weed/moss:**

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

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

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