

Helleborus Orientalis

Cultivation information Helleborus orientalis for pot

Helleborus orientalis is a perennial that flowers in the winter and early spring. The plant will grow for years in the garden and will grow bigger and produce more flowers each year. H. orientalis flowers with its flower stems coming out from the soil. Often the old leaves are removed before the flowering time, so that the flowers will show good.

Helleborus orientalis is a 1 – 2 year perennial crop. Depending on the growing season 60-90 percent will produce 1 – 2 flowerstems the first year. The rest of the plants will flower the second year. The second year the leaves will turn brown earlier and will have to be removed before the flowering time. The plant flowers from December through April, two-year old plants will flower earlier. Helleborus orientalis distinguishes itself by: more growing power, more flower percentage first year in the pot (provided that it is well grown).

Number of flowerstems Helleborus orientalis: year 1: 1-2 stems, year 2: 3-6 stems, year 3 and later years: 10 and more stems.

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

Potting:

In April/May, one plant in a 14 cm pot. Preferably in 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 plant should approximately be on soil level.

Soil-type:

Use well-drained and well-aired soil. Mix in potting soil 6 months Osmekote (20-20-20).

Watering:

Always give water on top! Watering underneath can cause mildew and can result in a high percentage of loss of plants. Keep the soil moist but not too wet. A combination of too dry and then too moist can cause footrot or rootproblems. Take care that the container field is well-drained so no puddles remain. An ebb and flow system is not suitable for Helleborus.

Spacing:

Space in August, depending on pot – and plant size. More spacing is needed when plants grow fuller. The second year the plants definitely need to be spaced.

Fertilizing:

Fertilize regularly with a fertilizing mix such as Crystalon Blue (19-6-20). If too much fertilizing is used, the plants will be softer and produce more leaves. This increases the risk of frost damage. If the soil is kept somewhat dryer in September and less N is given, it will be beneficial for the flowering. If regrowth of new foliage appear in September then there will be no flowers next year February. "regrowth in autumn = no flowering"

Climate:

Helleborus orientalis can be best grown in a shaded greenhouse. In a greenhouse without shade there is a high potential for root problems due to high temperatures in the summer.

Outdoor growing:

Helleborus orientalis can be grown outside, possibly in a shaded area. In October – November move plants into a cold greenhouse (more cold – more evenly flowering) before the flowerstem starts to reach. Frost, rain and snow can damage the flowerstem and/or flower. Also the leaves can be damaged in the winter when grown outside.

Growth retardant (PGR):

The leaves should not grow too long. As soon as the leaves reach 20 cm, it is better to use a restraining solution. Certainly with the one-year grown plants, the flowers are better visible if the leaves do not grow too big. A common restraining solution can be used, for example Alar with a concentration of 40 gram per 10 liter.

Diseases:

Leaf spots and botrytis are leaf diseases. Spray leaves a couple of times with, for example, Daconil. This is especially important after July. Note: Daconil shows residue on the leaves.

Insects:

Helleborus orientalis is susceptible to leaf aphids. The green fruittree cicade can cause little white spots on the leaves. These cicades look like white fly but are green/yellowish coloured. Also white fly and spider mite can cause damage. To the best of knowledge, trips will not cause damage to the leaves, but trips can damage the flowers.

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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