

## Growing advice for September – October

Dear Helleborus or. Queens™ grower,

In contrast to summer bloomers, the Helleborus hybrids obtain their energie from low temperatures. Therefore it is very important to keep the greenhouse temperature low from September to November. A temperature that is too high in these months comes at the expense of the quality of the flowers. And the growth rate will be disrupted in that case.

The second growth period starts around the end of August. Then the plant has a strong root growth and the plant builds reserves which will be required to develop flower buds. The extra spreading of potassium and Epsom salts promotes the quality of the flowers.

Helleborus or. Queens™ uses a lot of water during this growth period. This is caused by the large leaves that evaporate a lot of water and it is also caused by their strong vigor. It is important that the plant can take in (enough) water continually in order to evaporate. If that is not the case, the leaves will die prematurely. This will have negative results on the amount of flower buds for next season.

### **Remove weeds, because they make for a nest of different problems!**

**Downy mildew** is a disease which, according to our experience, can cause the most damage. Spraying against this disease must occur regularly from April to October. To prevent further spread, strongly affected plants should always be removed. A good air circulation in the greenhouse is also important. Draft should be avoided at all times; a strong wind helps the disease to spread quickly.

- **Flint:** will be partially absorbed in the wax layer;
- **Ortiva:** preventive and curative = systemic;
- **Switch:** preventive and curative;
- **Luna Privilege:** upwardly systemic.

### **Yellow fruit tree cicada**

The yellow fruit tree cicada occurs in more and more Helleborus crops. The most of these cicadas will appear between August and October. In September the cicada lays eggs. Therefore, use the agent Conserve in August to fight this problem. Please remember that it isn't likely that you will be free of this plague after one try.

### **Vine weevil**

Damage from a vine weevil can be recognized by round feeding lines in the leaf. However, most damage is caused beneath the soil by larvae eating from the roots.

### **Recognition:**

Both the adult vine weevils and the larvae cause damage. The adult vine weevils eat round holes in the leaves, beginning at the edge. The vine weevil is a pest in a great number of horticultural crops. This creature is also known as the *Otiorhynchus sulcatus*.



Roots, tubers and rhizomes can be seriously affected by larvae. Also because they gnaw at the bark of the plant at the stem base. In that case sap flow is no longer possible and therefore the plants wither before they eventually die. One larva can be enough to cause a plant to die.

Harmful organisms such as fungi and bacteria can penetrate the plant through wounds arising at the roots.

### **Way of life:**

An adult vine weevil is 8 to 12 mm in length and has a brown black color with with pale yellow spots. The shields are grooved and fused with the body so they can not fly. They are therefore forced to walk which they can do very well.

From May to October the females lay eggs. Which are round and first white in color, but they soon become brown. The larvae live in the soil. They are initially 1 mm in length and they can become 12 mm in length. The head is brown and the body translucent white to pinkish.

The vine weevil hibernates as a larva in the soil. Mature larvae pupate in the spring in the soil. Outside there is one generation per year, but in the greenhouse that development is much faster. In that case there may be several generations per year.

### **Measures:**

- Vine weevils can be controlled both chemical and biological;
- Chemical control is possible with Calypso;
- Biological control is possible with parasitic nematodes.

**Botrytis** is a disease which occurs in young plants in October and November. During this period, young plants usually creates new leaves which are extremely susceptible to this disease. Therefore, in these months it is necessary to carry out preventive spraying twice.

**Aphids** can cause damage throughout the whole year. A good scouting is important in that case.

**Spider mite** can cause problems in the warm summer months. Control with Scelta or Floramite.

**Caterpillars** can cause damage above and below the soil. Control with Turex or Decis.

And **snails** can also cause damage above and below the soil.

Click on [this link](#) to have a look at the extented cultural information.

Green Works also supplies other summer flower starting material, like: Ranunculus Butterfly™, Ranunculus Romance™, Ranunculus Royal XXL™, Asclepia Beatrix® and Paeonia.

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**For more information, please consult [our website](#) or contact:**

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**Also, follow Green Works on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for more relevant information about Helleborus or. Queens™ amongst other things.**



*Green Works supplies young planting material for the professional cultivation of pot plants and (summer) cut flowers. Green Works is also a large grower of peonies for the successful cultivation and trade in the Netherlands and abroad. We supply within the Netherlands and globally to professional growers and (export) traders. With support in cultivation, promotion and sales, Green Works offers a total package to put an unique and healthy product on the market: [www.green-works.nl/en](http://www.green-works.nl/en)*

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