



## Featured Plant: **HELLEBORUS** (*hell-EBB-ur-us*)

If it is the Lenten season, then *Helleborus x hybridus* must be in bloom. The time of its flowering - from January or February through April - is reflected in its common name, the lenten rose. However, although its nodding flowers may resemble wild roses, “that which we call a rose” is really in the buttercup family. Lenten roses range in color from white to pink to purple to green, but unlike flowers that wither away after fertilization, hellebore flowers remain on the stem sometimes through summer and fall (like those below ↓).



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Often slow to establish, this 15”-24” tall perennial grows best in partial shade. It tolerates full shade but likely will have fewer flowers. Although it prefers rich, moist, well-drained soil, an established plant is fairly drought-tolerant. Plant hellebores in sheltered areas (patios, by evergreens) where you can easily see and enjoy the early blooms. Take care in choosing a site, since they do not like to be moved. Plant hellebores and you’ll find - hello - bores they are not.