

Hellebore Care

A Garden Guide

Hellebores are beautiful, low-maintenance, long-lived, **evergreen**, perennial plants. Native to central and southern Europe, they are commonly found on **mountainsides** there. Blooms can be single or double, and now come in a range of colors, from pure white to pinks to purples to greens to near black. Bloom time can range from winter to spring, when few other plants are blooming.



Deer and rabbit resistant. This is an excellent plant that performs well here in the mountains of Western North Carolina.

Light: Partial shade to shade. Too much shade will decrease the amount of blooms.

Planting: Dig a hole 2-3x the size of the pot, and mix in Soil conditioner ($\frac{1}{3}$), organic materials such as composted Cow manure ($\frac{1}{3}$), with native soil ($\frac{1}{3}$). If the soil is a very heavy clay, use up to $\frac{1}{2}$ Soil conditioner with $\frac{1}{2}$ native soil, and mix in granular fertilizers instead. If your Hellebore is dry, water well from below before planting. Carefully remove the hellebore from its pot, apply mycorrhizal fungi on the roots if desired, then plant it at the same depth as in the pot, firming the soil back around. Water well after planting. Espoma's Bio-tone® fertilizer, which is high in mycorrhizal fungi, will work as both the granular fertilizer and as mycorrhizal inoculant.

Fertilization: In cool spring: work in organic fertilizer higher in Nitrogen, in summer heat do not fertilize, in fall use an organic balanced fertilizer higher in Potassium.

Water: Moist, well draining soil. While they prefer to be on the drier side, water during extended dry periods. They do not need as much water in winter.

Maintenance: Remove old foliage in winter, before new flower stems emerge. Deadhead flowers when they lose their color. Cut at the base of the stems to prevent spreading via seeds. Plants do not require division often. Plants can be mulched with pine bark in the fall, but be careful not to cover the crown. Version 1.2 Mar 21

