Eric Smith Hellebore

Helleborus x ericsmithii



Eric Smith Hellebore flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 8 inches

Flower Height: 14 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Lenten Rose, Winter Rose

Description:

A unique perennial that blooms in late winter and early spring; flowers are large, cream colored and rise above the foliage; they may have some pink streaking; very showy plant is excellent for borders where protected from winter winds

Ornamental Features

Eric Smith Hellebore features showy nodding white cup-shaped flowers with creamy white overtones and pink streaks at the ends of the stems from late winter to early spring. Its glossy oval compound leaves remain dark green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Eric Smith Hellebore is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Eric Smith Hellebore is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Eric Smith Hellebore will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity extending to 14 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in partial shade to full shade. Keep it well away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.