

Helleborus Gold Collection®

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The outstanding Helleborus Gold Collection® brings new life to winter and early spring-blooming Hellebores. Flowering the first year, they are long blooming, with lots of buds and blossoms. The large flowers are upward and outward facing, making it easy to appreciate their natural beauty. All varieties are evergreen, deer resistant, no-fuss, reliable additions to modern gardens. *Hybridized by Heuger.*

MARKETING SUGGESTIONS

By following our guidelines for the Welcome Spring! and Perfect Perennial! growing programs, you can create new sales opportunities and improved cash flow in the off-season with the Helleborus Gold Collection®.



Welcome Spring!

Objective: natural-season, blooming plant for frost-hardy patio containers and the garden
Uses: frost tolerant patio containers
Sales Window: December–April
Market Segment: grocery stores, independent garden centers, mass merchants
Retailer Benefits: higher margin crop; suitable for merchandising displays; cross-sales with early spring bulbs, pansies and primroses



Perfect Perennial!

Objective: main-season perennial
Uses: patio containers, borders, landscape
Sales Window: March–October
Market Segment: grocery stores, independent garden centers, landscapers, mass merchants
Retailer Benefits: improved genetics result in more color the first year

A PROGRESSION OF BLOOM

Hellebore flowering is a natural progression: early in the period, colored buds appear, followed by a succession of open blossoms that age gracefully. Each bar reflects the approximate bloom period for the variety; expect fully open flowers mid-period. By planting different varieties with overlapping bloom times, you can have color from December through March.

December	January	February	March
Jacob			
Cinnamon Snow			
Josef Lemper			
	Mahogany Snow		
		Champion	
		Pink Frost	
		Spring Party	

PLANT DATA

	Height	Spread	Bloom Time	USDA Zone	Patent Information
Champion (Winter's Bliss) Large, creamy white blooms age to dark pink	15-18"	24"	Mid-Jan-Mar	4	<i>H. x ericsmithii</i> 'HGC Champion': USPPP
Cinnamon Snow Very early to bloom, with creamy white flowers that age to cinnamon	15-18"	24"	Dec-Feb	5	<i>H. x ballardiae</i> 'HGC Cinnamon Snow': USPPP
Jacob Pure white blossoms atop burgundy stems	9-12"	13"	Dec-Jan	4	<i>H. niger</i> 'HGC Jacob': USPP #17799
Josef Lemper Very large, white blooms and superior landscape performance	15-18"	21"	Dec-Feb	4	<i>H. niger</i> 'HGC Josef Lemper': USPP #15615
Mahogany Snow Large cream blossoms with light pink reverse	12-15"	20"	Jan-Feb	5	<i>H. x ballardiae</i> Mahogany Snow: USPPP
Pink Frost Burgundy and white buds open to soft pink shades; a spectrum of color	12-15"	24"	Mid-Jan-Mar	5	<i>H. x ballardiae</i> 'HGC Pink Frost': USPPP
Spring Party (Moonlit Marble) Creamy white blooms and attractive, green and white, marbled foliage	10-14"	20"	Feb-Mar	5	<i>H. x ballardiae</i> 'HGC Spring Party': USPPP



Champion



Cinnamon Snow



Jacob



Josef Lemper



Mahogany Snow

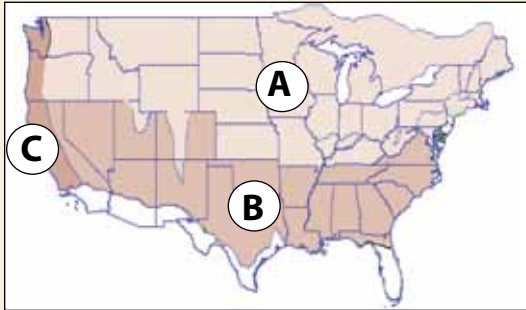


Pink Frost



Spring Party

PLANTING DATES



Please note that using the planting date listed will produce a full, beautiful, gallon plant. Planting even earlier will improve the quality.

White areas shown in the south are not suitable for growing Hellebores.

*Later transplant will result in a smaller plant with more modest flowering.

Program	Finish Size	Plug Size	Region A Planting Date	Region B Planting Date	Region C Planting Date
WELCOME SPRING!	Gallon	72-cell	Apr 15–May 15	Mar 1–Apr 1	Apr 1–May 15
		21-cell	Aug 15–Sep 1	—	Aug 15–Sep 15
PERFECT PERENNIAL!	Gallon	72-cell	Apr 15–Jun 1 *Late transplant: Aug 15–Sep 15	Mar 1–Apr 1 *Late transplant: Apr 1–Jun 1	Apr 1–May 15 *Late transplant: Sep 1–Sep 15
		21-cell	Aug 15–Sep 1	—	Aug 15–Sep 15
QUICK QUART!	Quart	72-cell	Aug 15–Sep 15	Aug 15–Sep 15	Aug 15–Sep 15

GROWER NOTES

The following information is based on our own experience with this crop in the Pacific Northwest. Growth will vary depending on location, climate, growing medium and cultural practices. As always, where chemical use is involved, read the labels, follow the instructions and practice careful trialing methods.

- Avoid planting when temperatures are above 80° F. Early planting in cooler temperatures provides the best conditions for critical root development.
- *Helleborus* prefers soil high in organic matter with good air space and drainage. Avoid soils with a high nitrogen starter charge. Consider the longer crop time and the longevity of the lime in your regular mix to avoid pH drops and possible nutrient problems late in production.
- Planting depth:
 - **Cinnamon Snow, Jacob, Josef Lemper, Mahogany Snow, Spring Party:** Plant liners level with the soil, taking care not to bury the crown too deeply.
 - **Champion, Pink Frost:** Deeper planting is critical. Cover the crown with ½" of soil at transplant so first watering leaves it only slightly exposed. If planted too high, the central bud stem may fall off-center, and buds will form at the crown, but will not leaf out and produce full plants.
- A preventative treatment for root or crown rot is recommended after transplant, either through chemical drenching or the addition of RootShield® (*Trichoderma harzianum*) or other microbial soil additives. If using microbial products, be aware of the effect of fungicides on these products.
- Monitor root development and fertility levels to avoid excess salts and prevent root rot.
- Fertilize based on the following seasonal guidelines:
 - During cool spring months, apply balanced fertilizer higher in nitrogen content.
 - During summer heat, significantly decrease or discontinue fertilizer use; Hellebore roots are sensitive to fertilizer burn.
 - During fall months, apply balanced fertilizer higher in potassium.
- Screen the pH and EC of the potting medium routinely to maintain the recommended levels:
 - EC: 1.0–1.8 mS/cm during the growing season; when forcing plants: 1.0 mS/cm
 - pH: 5.5–6.0



When planted too high



When planted correctly

continued

GROWER NOTES *continued*

- Protect from sun and freezing temperatures according to your geographic area (see map on previous page):
 - **Region A:** Provide shade from June through August. Can be grown outdoors until freezing weather; do not allow to freeze.
 - **Region B:** Provide shade from May through September. Can be grown outdoors with winter protection; do not allow to freeze. Protect foliage from severe weather to avoid winter burn.
 - **Region C:** Depending on regional light levels, provide shade during midsummer. Can be grown outdoors until freezing weather: do not allow to freeze.
- Keep plants evenly moist, but not overwet. Do not allow to wilt repeatedly.
- Monitor for thrips, aphids, *Botrytis* and leaf spots during the growing season and treat accordingly. Check crowns and developing flower buds carefully for thrips, as they will damage blossoms by eating stamens at the bud stage, and damage may go unnoticed until bloom.
- Spacing and growth regulators:
 - **Cinnamon Snow, Jacob, Josef Lemper, Mahogany Snow:** It is best to grow plants unspaced for as long as possible to keep roots cool. Soil temperature is the most critical factor in healthy root development. Plants will benefit from higher light levels if temperatures are below 80° F, so provide shade primarily to reduce soil temperature rather than light levels. Use growth regulators judiciously to prevent petiole stretch. Frequency and rates may need adjustment depending on cultivar and growing conditions. A general guideline is to spray once monthly in early June, July and August at 3750–5000 ppm daminozide (B-Nine® or Dazide®) and 5–10 ppm paclobutrazol (Bonzi® or Paczol®). Discontinue growth regulators after early August, or bud development may be affected. Do not overregulate.
 - **Spring Party:** Spring Party is the most heat sensitive cultivar, and slower to fill out. It will benefit from being grown separately from more vigorous cultivars to control watering. Space only when absolutely necessary, as growing close will help keep roots cool. No growth regulators should be necessary.
 - **Champion, Pink Frost:** On these vigorous cultivars, spacing and proper use of regulators are essential to the production of quality plants that do not become overgrown. Space early, but avoid overspacing to prevent stretched plants. Two-step spacing may be beneficial. Soil should not be visible when plants are properly positioned; use foliage to provide shade to roots. Growth regulators need to be applied early and more often. To control petiole stretch in young plants, apply 3750 ppm daminozide (B-Nine® or Dazide®) and 5 ppm paclobutrazol (Bonzi® or Paczol®) to keep growth compact. When foliage is just over the edge of the pot, a 1 ppm paclobutrazol (Bonzi®) drench is recommended. Repeat drenches every 3–4 weeks as needed in summer, especially on Pink Frost. Discontinue drenching in late August or early September to allow crown buds to produce foliage, and return to foliar sprays of B-Nine® only if needed. Pink Frost may produce a few fall blooms. These can be removed to encourage development of shoots from the base, or during winter to freshen plants prior to spring bloom. Leave a 2–3" stem when removing these flowers to avoid movement of rot into the crown.



Phosphorus damage



Thrips damage (on right)



Fungicide damage



Pink Frost



Pink Frost, Cinnamon Snow & Jacob