Hellebores were represented for many years primarily by two species, the Christmas Rose (*Helleborus niger*) and the Lenten Rose (*Helleborus orientalis*). Now growers offer multiple varieties with unique foliage, a wider range of bloom times, and a huge range of colors. Many hellebores are available as tissue-cultured clones; others are grown from seed and will show more variability in flower color and form. Bloom times below are approximate and can vary from garden to garden and from year to year, but the bloom order will remain generally the same. See Sky’s *Hellebore Care* sheet for planting and care instructions.

### HELLEBORE VARIETY DESCRIPTIONS (BY BOTANICAL NAME)

**H. ARGUTIFOLIUS**

*H. argutifolius* (sometimes called *H. corsicus*) blooms mid January through late March. Flowers are apple-green and cup-shaped, growing in pendant clusters. Foliage is marbled, gray-green, and toothed. It is the largest of the hellebores, normally growing 24–48” tall by 24” wide. This hellebore can handle more sun than most others. Varieties include:

- **Silver Lace** Flowers creamy green; foliage silver gray, very sharply toothed
- **Silver Veil** Very dwarf; flowers white aging pink; foliage green overlaid with silver; red stems
- **Snow Fever** Flowers cream blushed green; foliage green veined purple, speckled with white
H. X BALLARDIAE
H. x ballardiae is a cross between H. lividus and H. niger. It normally blooms mid-January through late March. The single flowers face outward and typically change colors over time; the foliage is dark green with a serrated edge, often with colored veins or stems. Varieties typically grow 12-18" tall by 24" wide. Varieties include:
- **Camelot**: Flowers emerge cream blushed rose, aging to deep pink & apricot; foliage is dark green with a silver sheen; red stems
- **Cinnamon Snow**: Very early (bloom starts mid December); flowers large, cream with rose and cinnamon accents; burgundy stems
- **Maestro**: Flowers cream blushed rose aging to deep rose; foliage has light veining; red stems
- **Mahogany Snow**: Flowers large, cream with rose reverse, aging to mahogany; reddish stems
- **Marlon**: Rose buds open cream, ages green; cinnamon stems
- **Merlin**: Late (February); compact plants; light pink flowers aging to burgundy; plum stems
- **Pink Frost**: Late (February); white buds, pink blooms aging to wine red; red stems and veins
- **Snow Dance**: Pink buds open to white flowers with prominent yellow stamens, pink reverse
- **Spring Party**: Late (February); compact plants; flowers creamy white brushed w/pink; white-veined foliage, rosy stems

H. X ERICSmithII
H. x ericsmithii is a cross between H. x sternii and H. niger. It normally blooms mid-January through late March. The single flowers face outward; the large foliage is often grey or blue green. Varieties can grow 8" to 24" tall. Varieties include:
- **Angel Glow**: Large (18-24"; pink buds, frosty pink flowers aging to dusky pink; foliage leathery, blue-grey
- **Champion**: Compact (8-12"; rosy buds, creamy white flowers aging to rose; foliage large, lance-shaped, glossy green
- **Frosty**: Large (20"; icy white flowers with yellow centers; foliage dark green
- **Love Bug**: Compact (10-12"; rose buds; creamy pink flowers aging to rose; foliage blue-grey
- **Monte Cristo**: Compact (10-12"; flowers creamy white aging to peach pink; foliage blue-grey; red stems
- **Pirouette**: Mid size (12-14"; pink buds, flowers white tinged pink aging darker pink; foliage blue-grey
- **Shooting Star**: Large (18-22"; rose buds, white blooms with pink star on reverse; foliage medium green with red stems
- **Vancouver Medallion AKA Candy Love**: Mid size (14-16"; flowers ivory tinged pink, aging to chocolate brown; foliage silver green; red veins and stems

H. FOEDITUS
H. foeditus blooms mid January through late March. Flowers are nodding pale green bells with maroon edges. Foliage is dark green and lance-shaped. It normally grows about 18-30" tall by 30" wide. This hellebore can handle more sun than most others. One named variety:
- **Wester Flisk**: Compact (10-20") form with red petioles and stems
**H. x GLANDORFENSIS  HGC ‘ICE N’ ROSES® SERIES**
This series of hybrid hellebores has an extremely extended bloom time - mid December through April! The single flowers face upward; the leaves are a shiny dark green. These hellebores typically grow about 12-24” tall by 24” wide. Varieties include:

- **Ice N’ Roses Barolo** Dark maroon
- **Ice N’ Roses Bianco** Pure white
- **Ice N’ Roses Brunello** Deep burgundy
- **Ice N’ Roses Carlotta** White shading to deep pink
- **Ice N’ Roses Corvina** Ruby red with frilly yellow stamens
- **Ice N’ Roses Dark Picotee** Creamy white with purple-pink edges
- **Ice N’ Roses Early Red** Deep purple-red
- **Ice N’ Roses Early Rose** Opens pale pink with darker edges, deepens to rose-pink
- **Ice N’ Roses Frosted Rose** White with green shades and purple-red picotee edges
- **Ice N’ Roses Merlot** Rich wine red
- **Ice N’ Roses Nightingale** Dark maroon with lighter streaks
- **Ice N’ Roses Picotee** Multicolored, varying; snow white to pink with dark pink edges
- **Ice N’ Roses Pink** Pale pink with dark edges
- **Ice N’ Roses Rosado** Clear white centers shading to purple-pink
- **Ice N’ Roses Rosali** White to pale pink with deep red edges
- **Ice N’ Roses Rose** Rose pink; pale centers, darker pink edges
- **Ice N’ Roses Rosetta** Light pink and white with golden stamens
- **Ice N’ Roses Red** Clear dark maroon red
- **Ice N’ Roses White** Icy white

**H. x IBURGENSIS  FROSTKISS® SERIES**
This series of hybrid hellebores has a long bloom time - late December through March. The nodding single flowers are held well above the leaves. Lovely foliage: blue-green marbled with silver and white, sometimes pink. These hellebores typically grow about 16-24” tall.

- **Anna's Red** Deep burgundy red flowers; red stems
- **Bayli's Blush** Cream blushed pink, with dark freckles
- **Cheryl's Shine** Clear light pink flowers; pink stems
- **Dana's Dulcet** Pink-purple flowers; purple stems
- **Dorothy's Dawn** Pink edges fading to cream and green at center, pink stems
- **Glenda's Gloss** White edged violet, with green centers and purple stems
- **Molly's White** Creamy white flowers, green or pink stems
- **Moondance** Flowers bright white aging green, foliage marbled with white
- **Penny's Pink** Flowers mauve aging to deep pink; red stems
- **Pippa's Purple** Flowers rosy purple with burgundy freckles; purple stems; pink tinged foliage
- **Reanna's Ruby** Ruby red flowers; red stems
- **Sally's Shell** Flowers shell pink shading to white at center; pink stems
- **Winter Angels Charmer** Deep burgundy flowers and stems
H. X LEMONNIERI
H. x lemonnieri is a hybrid of *H. niger* & *H. orientalis* with upward-facing, large blooms and leathery foliage. Varieties include:

‘Madame Lemonnier’ Compact plant (12”), dark pink blooms January through March
‘Walberton’s Rosemary’ Very early blooming (December through February); pink buds open deep pink, aging to salmon, then green; larger plant (12-24”)

H. X LEMPERII
H. x lempieri is a hybrid of *H. niger* & *H. x hybridus* with upward-facing, large single blooms. Bloom season is both early and extended. Varieties include:

Leona Wine red, blooming starts December.
Liah Pink with darker freckles
Liara White streaked and edged with dark pink, blooming starts November
Linda White with green centers and yellow stamens
Lisann Pure white with green centers, blooming starts October

H. NIGER
*Helleborus niger*, the “Christmas rose” typically is the first hellebore to bloom, with long-lasting, upward facing single blooms that are usually white aging to green. Foliage is glossy dark green, and plants usually grow 10-18” tall by 20” wide. Varieties include:

Diva Early, with large pure white flowers
Jacob Very early, compact, flowers white with burgundy stems, slightly fragrant
Jasper Very early, compact, flowers white with green blush
Jesko Very early, compact, flowers pure white
Jonas Compact, flowers white with a pink blush, aging green
Josef Lemper Larger vigorous plant, flowers white aging light green
Snow Frills Later blooming (mid January), compact, pure white double flowers

H. X NIGERCORS
*H. x nigercors* is a hybrid of *H. niger* and *H. argutifolius*. It’s considered the easiest to grow and the hardiest. Bloom time is typically mid January through March. Varieties include:

Honeyhill Joy Creamy white aging pale green, foliage blue tinged and shiny, 28” tall
Ice Breaker Fancy Flowers cream white aging green, foliage blue-grey; 12-18” tall
Ice Breaker Max Flowers large, creamy white tinged green; foliage dark green 12-15” tall.
Ice Breaker Pico Pink buds open to greenish cream blooms; foliage blue-grey; 8-10” tall
Karina Green Flowers pale green and white; foliage dark green; 18” tall
Hellebore List

H. ORIENTALIS (H. X HYBRIDUS)
The “Lenten Rose,” long-blooming and long-lived; most varieties sold as H. orientalis are technically hybrids, H. x hybridus. It is the latest blooming group of hellebores, typically blooming February through April. Nodding flowers can be single or double, in a very wide range of colors, often with contrasting veins, freckles, or edges. Foliage is usually dark green and glossy. The Lenten rose usually grows about 18-24” tall by 24” wide. Varieties include:

**The Brandywine Series** Double and semi-double flowers in shades of white, apricot, pink, burgundy, purple, and yellow, many spotted or picotee

**The Honeymoon Series** Single flowers in shades of yellow, apricot, pink, burgundy, white, and purple-black

**The Mardi Gras Series** Single or double, bright shades of pale or peachy pink, gold, yellow, rich purple, white

**The North Star™ Series** Double, nodding flowers in plum purple or pink; foliage is pine green, plants are larger than species: 25-30” high by 38” wide

**The Spring Promise™ Series** Single or double, shades of cream, white, pink, and burgundy

**The Wedding Party Series** Double nodding flowers in white, pink, and dark purple

**The Winter Jewels® Series** Single or double flowers in every possible color; very striking

**Vavavoom™** Very early blooming (starting mid December), very compact (6” by 12”) plants with semidouble, freckled flowers in blush pink or white

H. X SAHINII ‘WINTERBELLS’
H. x sahinii ‘Winterbells’ is a cross between H. niger and H. foetidus. Its gracefully nodding flowers are cream brushed pink & lime green, aging to mauve. It grows 10-12"x12” and blooms from winter-spring.

H. X ‘WALHELIVOR’ ‘IVORY PRINCE’
H. x ‘Walhelivor’ ‘Ivory Prince’ blooms at the same time as the Lenten roses. Flowers are ivory flushed pink, streaked green and rose. Plants grow 12-18” tall by about 24” wide, with blue green foliage and burgundy stems.