



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

HYBRID HELLEBORE CARE

LIGHT

This guide covers modern garden hybrids such as Frostkiss, Ice N' Roses, Ivory Prince and related selections. Partial shade with protection from hot afternoon sun suits most. Some snow-rose hybrids tolerate more sun with adequate moisture. Follow the cultivar label for exposure, hardiness and mature size.

WATERING

Water deeply during establishment, then as needed to prevent prolonged dryness. Keep soil moist but freely drained, especially during winter thaws. Containers dry faster and must drain completely. Hellebores may temporarily droop in freezing weather; check again after temperatures rise before assuming the plant needs water.

SOIL & PLANTING

Choose humus-rich soil with good drainage and plant at the original pot level. Keep the crown clear of soil and mulch. Leave space for the mature clump and choose a location where roots can remain undisturbed. Avoid winter puddles and competition from thirsty established roots.

FERTILIZING

Use compost as a light top-dressing and feed only as soil conditions and the cultivar label warrant. Avoid excessive fertilizer, especially during summer heat. Correct poor drainage or drought before adding nutrients. Do not dig deeply around established plants; their roots are sensitive to injury.

LEAVES & FLOWERS

Keep healthy evergreen and marbled foliage, particularly on Frostkiss and snow-rose hybrids. Do not automatically strip all leaves before flowering. Trim individual old, brown or diseased leaves as fresh growth develops. Remove spent flower stems carefully after bloom, preserving healthy leaves and new basal shoots.

SEASONAL CARE

Avoid routine division of these hybrids. Flowering season and cold tolerance vary by cultivar; acclimate greenhouse-grown plants gradually and protect container roots from severe freezing. Seek advice for persistent black streaking, distortion or unexplained collapse. All hellebores are harmful if eaten; wear gloves and keep pets from chewing plants.