



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

LENTEN ROSE CARE

LIGHT

Lenten roses are the traditional Helleborus x hybridus and orientalis-type garden selections. Grow them in partial or dappled shade, ideally beneath deciduous trees. Protect from hot afternoon sun and drying wind. In Maine, flowering usually follows winter weather rather than a fixed holiday date.

WATERING

Water new plants through their first growing season, keeping soil moist without saturation. Established clumps benefit from watering in prolonged dry weather. Check the root zone before watering; wilt can also result from poor drainage. Water containers more often and let excess water escape freely.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant in humus-rich, well-drained garden soil at the same depth as in the nursery pot. Avoid burying the crown or planting in winter puddles. Choose a lasting location and allow room for the labeled mature spread. Add compost mulch around plants, leaving the crown exposed.

FERTILIZING

Compost and reasonably fertile soil usually support good growth. Check moisture and drainage before treating weak growth with fertilizer. If a soil test indicates a deficiency, apply a suitable perennial fertilizer at its label rate. Avoid digging around established roots, which are easily damaged.

LEAVES & FLOWERS

For traditional Lenten rose hybrids, carefully remove old foliage in late winter or early spring as flower buds emerge. Protect buds and fresh leaves from the shears. Remove diseased leaves promptly. After bloom, remove seed pods before they open if unwanted seedlings are a concern.

SEASONAL CARE

Leave healthy new foliage through summer and winter. Avoid routine division; established plants resent root disturbance. Flowers may droop in freezing weather and recover with a thaw. Seek advice for persistent black streaks or distorted growth. All hellebores are harmful if eaten; wear gloves when handling sap.