

Plant "Imagination"

Winter Sunshine hellebores are a great garden plant because they offer flowers in late winter. Unlike many hellebores they flower in their first year of growth. Their flowers face outward rather than drooping down, so you can easily see their ivory faces as well as their pinkish backs.

Commonly called: Winter Sunshine hellebore

Botanical name: *Helleborus xericsmithii* Winter Sunshine

Dark purple stems support 3- to 4-inch wide flowers and dark green leaves over a period of months beginning in late winter. Flower buds are purple; open flowers have white to ivory faces with some green freckling and mauve to rose backs. The stems are strongly upright and the flowers do not droop. As the flowers age they turn pink to rose. Foliage: Circular groups of thick, dark green leaves held by purple stems. Evergreen.
Habit: Mounding evergreen perennial, 12 to 16 inches tall and 18 inches wide.
Season: Year-round for foliage and late winter to early spring for flowers.

If you decide to grow Winter Sunshine hellebore: Plant hellebores in full to part shade, in average to rich soil. Keep them watered for their first year, but thereafter they should withstand some drought. Remove any tattered, old leaves in fall, before flower buds appear, so they won't detract from the floral display.

Grow in USDA Zones 4–9.



Winter Sunshine Hellebore

These aristocrats of a woodland garden. They bloom in late winter or early spring where the soil freezes hard. They require a moist but well-drained site under the shade of trees. Take care to amend the soil with plenty of organic matter, such as well-aged leaf mold and compost. You'll be rewarded with long-lived, deer- and vole-resistant plants that will spread nicely on their own.