

# *Plant "Imagination"*



## *LENTEN ROSE -- "Plant of the Year" in 2005*

The Lenten rose (**Helleborus x hybridus**) makes a wonderful addition to the shade garden or naturalized area. Bloom time is in the beginning of spring. They grow in hardiness zones 4-9, and are a fantastic choice even for beginning gardeners.

Lenten rose is an evergreen, 15- to 18-inch tall groundcover with leathery, dark-green, shiny foliage. Their new growth generally appears during late January and February, and precedes the 3- to 4-inch nodding, cup-shaped flowers that quickly emerge through the mulch or snow layer.

The flowers are most commonly white or lavender, but breeders have developed crosses with shades of pink, plum, green, dark purple, red and yellow. Once a few are planted and bloom in the garden, seedlings will appear the next spring to provide numerous transplants.