

Helleborus

Helleborus orientalis

QUICK FACTS

USDA ZONES

4–9

SUNLIGHT

Part Shade

BLOOM

Spring

HEIGHT

1–2 ft

DEER

Resistant

POLLINATORS

Yes

AT A GLANCE

Lenten rose is among the most shade-tolerant flowering perennials you can plant, and one of the earliest to bloom. It is genuinely deer-resistant, long-lived, and largely trouble-free once established. The one setup requirement: shade or part-shade with reasonable drainage. Full sun degrades the plant quickly in zones 6 and warmer. Cut the old foliage to the ground in January before flowers emerge -- this is the single most important annual maintenance step.

PLANTING CHECKLIST

- Match site to sun requirements above before buying
- Test soil drainage — dig a 12" hole, fill with water, time it (should drain in 1–2 hrs)
- Dig hole 2x wider than rootball, same depth
- Backfill with native soil — do NOT amend the planting hole
- Water deeply at planting and weekly for first 3 weeks
- Mulch 2" deep, keep mulch 2" away from trunk/stems

FULL GUIDE WITH SOURCES

<https://outdoorplantcare.com/plants/helleborus-care/>