

GREAT PLANT PICKS

Heleborus Field Evaluation Report 19 February 2002

Heronswood Nursery, Kingston, WA

Judges: Eric Hammond, Fran Martoglio, Carl Elliot, Alex Lavilla, Lorene Edwards Forkner, Richie Steffen

All plants were given a numerical score from 1 (worst) to five (best). Scores on this report reflect the average of four to six individual scores.

Heleborus	Overall Score	Health Quality	Habit Quality	Overall Ornamental Appeal	Disease Pest Resistance	Cultural Adaptability	Fruit/ Flower Production	Comments	Photo
H. atrorubens	3.6	4	3.2	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.7	Foliage deciduous, slow growing, dainty habit, flowers small.	
H. cyclophyllus	4.3	4.4	4.0	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.7	Flowers green and of good size, foliage clean, foliage deciduous, similar to H. odoratus but more vigorous and no fragrance.	
H. dumetorum	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.6	Foliage deciduous, delicately textured, flowers greenish, small and nodding, flowers somewhat hidden in the foliage.	
H. x ericsmithii	3.8	3.5	3.5	4.2	3.2	3.7	4.8	Flowers nice and up facing, held on dark stems, foliage evergreen, plants do not grow consistently, availability very limited.	
H. multifidus ssp. hercegovinus	4.1	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.2	3.8	3.4	A foliage plant, the best summer foliage, leaves deciduous in winter, slow to mature taking 3 years.	
H. multifidus ssp. istriacus	3.9	4.0	4.0	3.8	4.2	3.7	3.8	Very good foliage, deciduous, flowers small, nicely cupped and medium green, tolerant of heavy shade.	

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H. niger 'Sunrise Strain'	3.0	3.3	2.8	2.5	3.7	3.0	2.8	Foliage evergreen and better than species, flowers white fading to pink, huge, and have longer stems, foliage gets black spot in fall, flowers fading by end of February at Heronswood.	
H. odorus	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.0	Vigorous, foliage deciduous, flowers bright green medium-sized and hold up well.	
H. orientalis	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.2	1.2	2	3	Foliage evergreen, parent to many hybrids, disease prone foliage.	
H. purpurascens	4.0	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.2	3.7	4.0	Foliage deciduous, blooms early, flowers small, delicate and vividly colored purple-green, blooms heavily in heavy shade.	
H. thibetanus	4.0	3.7	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.0	Foliage deciduous and goes dormant in July, 3-4 years before bloom, blooms delicate and nodding, held close to ground, avoid purchase of wild collected plants.	
H. torquatus	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.8	4.4	4.0	3.4	Plant small, foliage nice, deciduous in winter, flowers dainty green to purple and held on purple stems.	

Notes: Most of the plants evaluated in this trial, including H. orientalis, are species hellebores. As evaluators' comments show, there is often variability within a species.