

GARDEN SPOT

Hellebores show a special charm



MARTY FIGLEY

In September 1988 I wrote about the Christmas Rose *Hellebore niger*, and received several nice comments about that column. Now it is time to revisit the subject and catch up on the progress and experiences I have had with the Hellebore family. Although September is a good time to plant this flower, you will probably be able to find it more readily this time of year.

I did plant a Christmas Rose after carefully considering where in my garden it would best survive, and I guess I did the correct thing, because it has been blooming for several years in its allotted spot. I chose a south-facing area in front of evergreen shrubs, and set some patterned bricks behind it to hold the warmth of the sun and to give it a backdrop when it bloomed.

Bloom time

Speaking of blooming, sometimes it blooms in the wintertime - generally in January or February - and this year it

didn't bloom until Easter time! But bloom it did in splendid glory with large "flatish" creamy white flowers that turned chartreuse when they matured. The foliage is evergreen on this plant.

Three years ago I was given some tiny seedlings of the Lenten Rose, *H. orientalis*, and planted them on the north side of the house - a completely opposite site from the Christmas Rose. They were so tiny, only about two inches high (I had brought them from a garden in Mobile - by permission), that I did baby them and watched over them most carefully.

This year they, too, bloomed around the first part of May. The flowers are more bell-shaped than the other one and they have maroon stripes running through them. They are also smaller than the lovely Christmas Rose but have a special charm. Blooms of Hellebores range in color - deep maroon, pinks, rose, green and white. Some are variegated.

I was at Fernwood Gardens in Niles in mid-April and both of these flowers were performing beautifully at the same time.

A year ago I bought *H. argutifolius*,



MARTY FIGLEY

Lenten Rose: This bell-shaped Hellebore has a special charm..

another member of this large family. I was told that it probably wouldn't bloom, but the foliage is quite distinct and looks well alongside the Christmas

Rose. But that's why we garden, isn't it? To discover and learn about the plants.

See

Need to Spruce up Your Home?

for a ...
First Communion
Graduation Wedding, Etc.

We Can Help You

- Silk Plants & Flowers
- Dried Flowers
- Floral Supplies
- Bases
- Ceramics
- Wicker
- Finest Quality

Hours
Mon.-Sat. 10-5

301 Walnut St.
(corner of Third & Walnut)
Downs' Exclusive
650-2450

Solid Oak 5 Pc. Dinette

FREE DELIVERY!

This pedestal-base 42" dia. solid oak table features a spill-resistant Formica top, plus one 12" leaf included! Set includes 4 matching solid oak side chairs.

Now 1/2 OFF! **\$599** ONE WEEK ONLY!

Star Family Owned Furniture Galleries

33500 Seven Mile Rd. at Farmington Rd. in Livonia

CALL 442-0120 DAILY 10-9 • SAT. 10-6 • SUN. 12-5

FULL SERVICE LICENSED ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

COUPON

AIR CONDITIONER
TUNE-UP
\$54.95

EXPIRES 6-30-96

100% OFF
AIR CLEANER
WITH PURCHASE
OF AIR CONDITIONER

6 MONTHS AS SEVEN YEARS NO. YES!

10 or 12 SEER

We are family owned and operated for over a quarter century

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATE

ROYAL OAK 546-3627 BIRMINGHAM 642-1882 DOWNRIVER 928-2600 ROCHESTER 650-5450

M.F. Downs Engineering Inc.

HEATING COOLING ELECTRICAL

LEADERSHIP DEALER

Consignment Interiors

MOVING OR REMODELING?

We specialize in selling like-new current decorative accessories and home furnishings.

- Furniture (large and small)
- Towels-Linens
- Silk Plants
- Flower Arrangements
- Baskets
- Framed Art
- Kitchenware
- Decorative Pillows
- Decorative Art Pieces

WE PAY CASH, FREE HOUSECALL PICKUP

810-347-4731 Open 7 Days
HIGHLAND LAKES SHOP CNTR.
NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN 48164