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Helleborus orientalis

[Synonyms : *Helleborus antiquorum*, *Helleborus caucasicus*, *Helleborus* x *hybridus*,
Helleborus kochii, *Helleborus olympicus*, *Helleborus olympicus* subsp. *olympicus*]

LENTEN ROSE is an evergreen perennial (deciduous in colder areas). Native to Greece and Turkey it has greenish-cream to plum-coloured flowers that are often crimson flecked.

It is also known as *Čemeřice* (Czech), Hellebore, Eastern hellebore, *Frühlingschristrose* (German), *Morgenländische Nieswurz* (German), *Orientalische Nieswurz* (German), *Orientalisk julros* (Swedish), *Röd julros* (Swedish), and Winter rose; and in flower language is said to be a symbol of calumny, and scandal.

The flowers after maturing fade to brown.

Warning – all parts of the plant are poisonous and have a burning taste.

In Britain at least Lenten rose is considered endangered in the wild.

Orientalis means ‘of or from the East’.

During the Middle Ages it was believed that the roots of Lenten rose had magical powers.