



## Riverview Garden Club Helpful Hints



**February 2019**

**Lenten rose, *Helleborus x hybridus*, is a sturdy, pest resistant evergreen perennial that will brighten up a shady corner or woodland garden. The plant reaches heights of 18-24 inches that grow in clumps that spread 24-36 inches wide. The long lasting cup shaped flowers will bloom in traditional shades of lavender and white with newer varieties in red, dark purple, plum, pink, green, and yellow.**



**Lenten rose is rarely attractive to deer or rabbits, as the leaves contain bitter tasting alkaloids.**

**Plant, and then leave it alone as they don't transplant or divide well.**

**The leaves may cause a mild dermatitis in some people. It is best to wear gloves when handling the plant.**

**Lenten rose will begin blooming in mid-winter in zone 4 to 9 and can take minimum temperatures from -30 degrees F to 20 degrees F depending on variety. Plantings of Lenten rose will give rewards during the dreary winter months when not much else is happening in the garden.**

**Water your plants during the first season of planting twice per week. Add mulch around the base of your plants with a 2 to 3 inch depth of bark mulch to retain moisture. Sprinkle slow-release 10-10-10 fertilizer around the plants when new buds form in mid-winter. Cut away diseased or dying leaves during the summer months. Any small plants that form under the base of the plant can be transplanted away from the parent plant. Prune the plants in the winter months by pruning the old leaves when the new**

**buds begin to emerge, improving the plant's appearance. Deadhead the plants old blooms as they begin to fade. If they are left on the plant, they will go to seed and produce new Lenten roses around the base of the mother plant.**



**--Sandy**