

Brief overview

Hepatica transsilvanica Transylvanian liverwort

The species comes from the Romanian Carpathians from Borzek to Deva and the Carpathian arc near Brasov. In the mountains it grows up to 2000 m altitude in the forests. It often blooms as early as January with its flowers up to 5 cm in size. Their color is blue to violet, occasionally there are white and even pink. 8 - 11 petals of the crown white to blue stamens and light green ovaries.

Chromosomes $2n=28$ = tetraploid.

2001 schrieb Marlene Ahlburg für meinen Hepaticakatlog:

Das Siebenbürgen Leberblümchen

Hepatica transsilvanica (M. Fuß)

From the perennial gardener's point of view, *Hepatica transsilvanica* is the more useful plant, because it is not so delicate and therefore more durable. It can be transplanted as early as September, reproduces better and is easier to divide, besides being a more stately plant with larger multiply divided leaves and longer stems, at least in general, than *Hepatica nobilis* var. *nobilis*. However, the same cannot be said of the white and pink forms, they are also relatively rarer in nature than *Hepatica nobilis* var. *nobilis* game species.

Hepatica transsilvanica are good ground cover under deciduous trees and shrubs, which protect them in the summer not only from too much light, but also from too much water and provide foliage for the humus layer. They combine well with large-growing snowdrops, also with dogtooth, Helleborus, wintergreen ferns and winter creepers. As for shrubs, early viburnum and Daphne, also *Lonicera purpusii* and other early-flowering shrubs fit in nicely. Planted in large areas, this creates a true spring garden. To keep the planting a lively look later, you can interplant it with later shade perennials. Its habitat requirements are similar to those of *Hepatica nobilis* var. *nobilis*: loose, warm, humus-rich forest soil, winter moisture, relatively dry with shade in summer, light in winter, not drafty but not stuffy or dry hot. The natural occurrences of *Hepatica transsilvanica* are limited to the Carpathians, from Borzek in the NE to Deva in the SW, but they are especially concentrated in the Burzenland with the central city of Brasov in the SE of the Carpathian arc. There they grow as endemics, while in the hill country of Transylvania only *Hepatica nobilis* var. *nobilis* occurs. *Hepatica transsilvanica* moves up to higher altitudes, up to 2000 m, and therefore blooms with us in the plain somewhat earlier than our native *Hepatica nobilis*.

Also from the Transylvanian liverwort, there are now several different varieties, which are worth collecting. Not all individual qualities can always be seen in the photos in the catalogs. The flowers may look different in some years and the character of the plant form often contributes a lot to its distinctiveness. You have to see them in bloom to pick them out.



`Adam`



`Alba`



`Anja JP`



`Angela JP`

Very popular are "Lilacina" ("Rosea"), the double blue "Elison Spence" and "Konny Greenfield", the blue "Loddon Blue", "Grethe", "Carpathian Crown", "Niveda" ("Pure White") and some others.

The longer they are allowed to grow undivided, the more beautiful will be the perennials. Sometimes, once in the fall / winter they love a mineral fertilizer, especially with lime and iron, but also trace elements.

With a little trick you can make the beauty of a flowering spring planting quite special; by cutting off the old leaves at the beginning of flowering, not before, you create a bright blue field when planted closely. The new leaves come out after flowering, reddish and long-haired, but with the seed ripening are much greener and the hairiness disappears.

If the plants are in the right place, they can be left to themselves from the moment they grow towards summer under the protection of the young foliage of the trees, because summer is their resting time. They will draw attention to themselves again by developing flower buds when they need attention again.

Notes and stories:

In *H. transsilvanica*, there is now a whole range of varieties, mostly resulting from selections, I have so far collected fifty-five varieties, planted and partially sifted; a lot of work! The differences are primarily in colors, some have differently notched leaves, and some are more agile or less so in growth. See images.

Excerpt of a letter from Kronstadt, Romania:

I have found especially beautiful forms in *H. transsilvanica*.

These forms could be divided into 3 groups:

- 1) relatively common; light - blue, very light - blue
- 2) rare; white, blue with reddish reflection
- 3) very rare; bicolor (blue with white wedge) pink, purple red

You know that Zinneberg 960 m altitude is locus classicus for *Hepatica transsilvanica*, send also a photo, of the different types.

Bild, N.
Balascuta



`Annegret Lund`



`Big`



`Blumenstadt Erfurt`



`Buis Strain`



`Karpatenkrone`



`Konny Greenfield`



`Loddon Blue`



`M. Ahlburg`



`Wechselspiel
JP`



`März`



`Melanie JP`



`M. Meyer`



`Nadine JP`

Extraordinary story of a plant

During the Second World War, my father, a gardener by profession, was stationed in Russia, near Velikije Luki (Minsk). Fascinated by the large forests of countless liverworts that covered the forest floor in blue in the spring, he dug up some plants and sent them home to Bad Schwartau with precise cultivation instructions. My mother took such good care of the plants that, to my recollection, they covered several square meters under the rhododendrons over the years. Later, when I was married, I took a large plant to Lüttau in the parish garden. There, too, the liverworts multiplied well. When I moved to Flensburg, some of the plants had to go with me again, because this simply belonged to my memories. The rest of the plants did not survive another move to Lübeck. Since my parents' house had been sold in the meantime, we tried to get a cutting in Lüttau. We found only one plant, which we were allowed to take with us to Lübeck. Here the liverwort took such a good foothold among rhododendrons that it reproduced wonderfully and even developed young plants from seed. This wild form from the Russian forests is clearly different in color and leaf shape from other liverworts, which are now also present in our garden.

Note from my side:

The woman who wrote me this story brought me a plant for my collection and I could determine that it was a *Hepatica transsilvanica*. I am curious to see how it will continue to develop and bloom in my home. Many thanks for the plant and the letter to the Hepatica lover.!

Hepatica transsilvanica `Elison Spence`

Several years ago I had letter contact with Molly Sanderson from Ireland. She wrote me that a spot of *Hepatica transsilvanica* had appeared in the garden of her friend. This was violet-blue and filled! I was very surprised and asked for a small offshoot for my collection. I was then very taken when one day a cutting arrived by mail. Molly Sanderson also informed me immediately that her friend had passed away and that she now takes care of this garden. At some shows in Ireland and England, where this plant was first listed under 'Floro Pleno', she won high awards. In memory of her friend "Elison Spence" this wonderful boulder was then renamed. Since then, it has become a sought-after collector's item in many nurseries and among plant lovers!



`Elison Spence`



`Dark Form`



`Donnerwolke JP`



`Düvelsblau JP`



`Eisfee JP`



`Peter Majland`



`Pink Form`



`Pure White`



`Scharrer`



`Rosea`



`Schwanensee`



`Semiplena JP`



`Sensation JP`



`Silver`

Variety:

Sorte	Beschreibung	Herkunft
`Adam`	hellblau, sternförmig	Adam
`Adda Scott`	hellblau, lila Stich	England
`Alba`	weiß	Naturform
`Alba Grethe`	weiß	Petersen, DK
`Angela JP`	dunkles taubenblau	J. Peters
`Anja JP`	violett	J. Peters
`Annegret Lund`	blässblau, großblumig	Lund, DK
`Beutnagels Weiße`	weiß	Beutnagel
`Big`	blau, sehr große Blüte	E. Pole
`Blue Danube`		Unbekannt
`Blue Dream`		Unbekannt
`Blue Wonder`		Unbekannt
`Blumenstadt Erfurt`	hellblau	A. Händel
`Buis Strain`	blau	Holland
`Dark Form`	dunkel violett	M. Myers, UK
`Donnerwolke JP`	hellviolett	J. Peters
`Düvelsblau JP`	enzianblau, sternförmig	J. Peters
`Eisfee` JP`	weiß, violettroter Rücken	J. Peters
`Eisvogel`	weiß, bläulicher Schimmer	E. Pole
`Elison Spence`	gefüllt, violettblau	M. Sanderson
`Erfurt`	blau	A. Händel
`Flori JP`	hellviolett	J. Peters
`G. R. Blau`	mittelblau	G. Römer
`Grethe`	blässblau, runde Blütenform	Petersen DK
`Hohenstein`	rosa	A. Händel
`Januar-Februar`	blau, frühblühend	R. Polett, UK
`Jocker`		Unbekannt
`Karpatenkrone`	hellblau, -15 Kronenblätter	M. Ahlburg
`Konny Greenfield`	gefüllt, violettblau	England
`Loddon Blue`	hellblau, runde Blütenform	England
`M. Ahlburg`	dkl. violett, multipetala	M. Ahlburg
`März`	hellblau	R. Polett, UK
`Melanie JP`	hellviolett	J. Peters
`M.M`	mittelblau	M. Myers, UK
`Nadine JP`	hellblau, großbl.	J. Peters
`Pale Blue`	hellblau, semiplena	England
`Peter Majland`	mittelblau, großbl.	P. Majland DK
`Pink Form`	rosa	England
`Pure White`	rein weiß	England
`Rosea`	rosa, identisch mit `Lilacina`	England
`Scharrer`	hellviolett, schmale Kronbl.	aus Berlin
`Schwansee`	rosa, 10 Kronbl., sternförmig	A. Händel
`Semiplena JP`	hellviolett	J. Peters
`Sensation`	taubenblau	J. Peters
`Silver`	silberblau	Goldbeck
`Stefans Blue`	dunkel blau	Stefan, UK



`Eisvogel`



`Flori JP`



`Loddon Blue`



`Hohenstein`

` Stefans Pink`	rosa	Stefan, UK
` Sterni JP`	mittelblau, sternförmig	J. Peters
` Struwelpeter`	blau, stark gekraustes Blatt	A. Händel
` Supernova`	dunkelblau	A. Händel
` Thiem`	hellblau, sternförmig	U.Thiem`
` Velikije Juki`	blau	Wildfund
` Was Nun`	hellviolett, sternförmig	E. Pole
` Wechselspiel JP`	weiß, violetter Zeichnung	J. Peters
` Weinreichs Blau`	blau, locker sternförmig	Weinreich
` Weinreichs Weiß`	weiß, locker sternförmig	Weinreich
` Winterfreude`	violett, 9 Kronenblätter	A. Händel
` Zwerg`	blau, kleiner Wuchs	A. Händel



` Januar-Februar`



` Stefans Blue`

Please to the interested readers! If you have a named variety that is not represented in this listing, please contact me. Perhaps there is a piece left for my collection. Thanks!



` Elison Spence`



`Stefan's Pink`



`Sterni JP`



`Struwelpeter`



`Supernova`



`Was Nun`



`Thiem`



`Weinreichs Blau`



`Winterfreude`



`Zwerg`