

Diseases and pests

Fortunately, the Hepática species are largely spared from diseases and pests, both in nature and in the care in the garden and in the cold house.

In Germany, fungal parasites (e.g.

Urocystis syncoeca) occur in Germany as rust or blight diseases; they are noticeable by roundish rust spots on the leaves and sometimes also on the petals.

on the petals. Since the extent of infestation has so far usually been limited, the treatment and destruction of the leaves seemed to be the most effective.

Since the extent of infestation has so far been mostly limited, the treatment and destruction of the leaves seemed to be the - albeit somewhat laborious - means of choice. All-

recently - possibly due to the changing environmental conditions in Germany as well - this type of in Germany - probably mainly due to the plum rust

Tranzschélia discolor or *pruni-spinósae*. As *Hepática nóbilis* also acts as an intermediate host for these rust fungi, it is recommended to

host, it is advisable not to plant plum trees or roses in the vicinity, and to rely on a sufficiently sufficiently ventilated, well supplied with potash and, if necessary, to prevent or ward off the fungus with an appropriate spraying agent.

Japanese hepática lovers in particular report damage caused by nematodes. These so-called root lice migrate from the soil into the plant, parasitize on the roots, cause many nodules there and thus and thus damage the plant. They are difficult to control; the most effective is still prevention by using a clean, damped soil substrate.

For the care of hepática cultivars in Germany, the following general hints can be made. can be made:

Aphids occur relatively rarely; their occurrence in the cold house can be managed by the usual means - from the spray or ladybug to picking, depending on the ecological interpretation of the fancier.

The red spider mite can only become a danger in Hepatica during a very dry summer. regular inspection of the plants as well as timely watering and showering prevent this. prevent this.

If root rot should occur, the lover is usually to blame: he has watered too much; be careful also especially when planting in plastic pots - the traditional use of clay pots with good drainage for hepática nage for Hepática in Japan has its reason!

Care should also be taken when planting in the garden or if placed outdoors without protection:

A treat for snails large and small of all kinds are the terminal buds. These can very quickly become a victim of their appetite and thus end the survival of the plant.

However, if the plant is sufficiently vigorous, new shoots can often be expected. A timely timely use of appropriate slug and snail control agents can prevent this to some extent. prevent.

Birds, especially blackbirds, can also make life difficult for plants in pots.

plants placed in pots. The pots seem to be very interesting - there could be an earthworm hiding an earthworm could be hiding - and unfortunately, the hoeing and plucking of the soil surface and the plant plant sometimes look quite devastated. Otherwise the birds are right: earthworms really do not belong in the pots.

earthworms really don't belong in pots, as they can also attack the roots due to their lack of mass.

In order to prevent such damage, the outdoor placement of more expensive plants should be protected as much as possible.

expensive) plants outdoors should be as protected as possible (e.g. by a bird protection net) as well as elevated (e.g. at eye level).

(e.g. at eye level); the former also serves to shade the plants and the latter makes it more difficult for the snails to The former also serves to shade and the latter makes it more difficult for snails to find their way and makes it easier for them to look at the plants - of course, all of this also applies to seedlings and young plants.

Otherwise, the cultivation instructions listed above for the individual species apply, as well as the advice given in the literature and also in the internet, where especially the Japanese Hepática lovers share their share their experiences. Certainly, one can also make almost a science out of it, but in the end the old wisdom applies:

"The plants thrive best in the shade of the gardener"! [Translated with DeepL](#)