

# Hepatica nobilis var. acuta

## Hepatica acutiloba

### Sharp-lobed Hepatica

In North America we have two relatives of the Hepatica nobilis group, one is H. nobilis var. acuta (acutiloba) and the other is H. nobilis var. obtusa (americana). The H. nobilis var. acuta described here grows more moist and on calcareous soils. Its habit is tight, 20 to 25 cm tall, flowers 2.5 - 3 cm, leaves are usually slightly spotted and 6 - 8 cm. As a highly visible feature, you can consider the long flower stalks, they can grow up to 20 - 25 cm long. A fully blooming hepatica looks like a finished bouquet of flowers. Another feature are the often red, young shoots, which then turn green with time.



Blattaustrieb



Blattaustrieb

During the transition of greening very beautiful color games are created.

Since in the USA the breeding of Hepatica is still at the beginning, hardly any named varieties are known yet. The best known is probably H. nobilis var. acuta `Louise Köhler`, a founding from nature.



Hepatica nobilis var. acuta 'Louise Köhler'



weiß mit rosa Außenstreifen



selten in violettblau



Rosefarben



`Rotauge`

It can be said that the color palette in the `acuta` predominates in the pastel shades. Vivid colors in purple, dark blue or even red are very rare. These are the sought-after and sought-after plants among hepatica lovers and collectors. Among the double forms, there seems to be only the `Louise Köhler` and the `White Fluff` (white filled) found by ECO Gardens. Otherwise Don Jakobs (ECO Gardens) has tried to find some selections, his varieties are:

`Eco Regal Blue` Pure blue

`Eco White Giant` snow-white, flowers up to 4.3 cmØ

`Sunmarble Strain` fantastic silver colored leaves by Barry Glick, Sunshine Farm & Gardens.

Other varieties are not known to me at the moment. However, there are quite a few bastards that occur in nature. The distribution areas of the two American varieties often overlap so much that Julian A. Steyermark wrote:

**35%** *H. nobilis* var. *obtusa* (*americana*)

**15%** *H. nobilis* var. *acuta* (*acutiloba*)

**50%** *H. nobilis* var. *obtusa* x *acuta* (*americana* x *acutiloba*)

That's surprising that you don't get much in the way of bastards with such potential. I have also noticed that *H. nobilis* var. *obtusa* blooms about 14 days before *H. nobilis* var. *acuta* and therefore hardly any unwanted crosses occur.

When it comes to color allocation, it looks like this:

**90%** vary from light purple to dark purple

**5%** light to dark pink

**5%** white

There is one more interesting cross, it originated from:

***H. transsilvanica* x *H. acutiloba* =.**

*Hepatica* x *media* `Milstrem Merlin`. Unfortunately I do not know the breeder. This cross has the ultimate blue ever, so intense that you can't do it justice when photographing it. I think it is worthwhile to make crossing attempts with the American Hepatica, my own experiences I describe under *H. x media*.



blau mit weißem Auge



weiß



zwei Blüten an einem Stiel



`Milstrem Merlin`



`Sunmarble Strain`