

# Care of Japanese hepatica in the seasonal cycle

## December:

Last sunbathing, preparation for overwintering.

**Watering:** Water the plants when the top layer of soil is dry. Since it can freeze during the nights, water in nice weather, in the morning, so it can dry well during the day.

**Ventilation:** Be careful with cold and dry air! Although this does not harm the plant, but leaves suffer in appearance.

**Frost:** The plants are very resistant to frost, too much wetness will damage the roots. With newly potted seedlings should be covered with newspaper to counteract the risk of freezing up.

**Overwintering in the open:**

Since low temperatures occur in the shade during this period, it is necessary to sink the pots into the ground to the top. Covered with light foliage, it corresponds to nature. This also ensures protection from excessive wind. The most beautiful is just when all at once in the spring bloom.

**Wintering in cold house:**

When the weather is nice, the temperatures are high during the day, but at night, as outside, low. Therefore, do not forget to open the windows during the day and close them at night if necessary. Covering with paper or rush mats will keep temperatures more constant. In any case, it can not be recommended to put the pots in the room or entrance. The stems become long and the flowers fade very quickly, the whole plant looks unsightly. Often it also bears damage and good further growth is often not possible.

**Tip for premature:**

If you want to see the flowers on New Year's Day, 20 days before should provide enough sun, heating and ventilation. So you can then already see the bloom.

But beware! The following growing period becomes problematic, often the plants care and need 2-3 years of recovery!

## January:

The vegetation buds are already swelling very gradually. Cautious watering as in December is appropriate. Frost defense should also be conducted as in the previous month.

**Protect young plants:**

The small circle-like cotyledons are cold-resistant, like their mother plant. However, the seedlings of November/December are still very soft and need special protection.

**Überwinterung:**

Die Freiland- und Gewächshausüberwinterung kann vom Dezember übernommen werden



`Kotobukihime`



`Kousetsu`



`kougyoku`



`Kouraku`



`Kuukai`

## Februar:

In 2-year-old seedlings begin to grow normal leaves in late February. Also, the first flowers may already be seen.

**Watering:** As in the last month needs little watering.

**Cold house:** February is still dormant, but in exciting anticipation. One should provide for balanced temperatures.

**Care:** The seed sown in the last May / June begins to germinate. Germination takes a month for 70-80% of the plants. Since they are very cold hardy, frost does not wither them. However, one should provide even moisture. The new seedlings need more light at this time than the old plants.

**Breeding:** It is advisable to already provide the breeding originals, clean them and fertilize them a little bit.

## March:

Preparation for transplanting.

You could now do the mixing of the soil, because in April - May is often not enough time for it.

**Exhibitions:** The plants you need to exhibit should be prepared now. Acclimatization of the covered plants.

**Breeding:** Now you have to observe which new offspring you want to select. Often the first pollination attempts are already necessary.

**Care of one-year-old seedlings:**

If growth in the seed tray is too dense, you could start thinning it out a bit now and prick out the largest seedlings. Earlier than the mother plants, the growth begins in the 2-year-old hepatica.

**Watering:** Often the soft, new leaves wilt because they do not get enough water. Therefore, watering should be abundant.

**Wind and sun:**

The leaves can tolerate more sun around this time, they become more stable and resistant. Strong winds harm the leaves, however, completely without wind they also become weak. Weak leaves lose their resistance to diseases and pests if they are grown too soft.

## April:

The month of repotting, care, fertilizing and growing.!

**Watering:** You should also provide enough moisture in April, now their vigor is the greatest.

**Repotting:** A chapter in itself, a lot of care and consideration is needed.



`Kyokurin`



`Matzukaze`



`Murasaki-shikibu`



`Murasaki-toki`



`Musoubai`



**Fertilize:** Add fertilizer to the soil now with care and add small amounts of liquid fertilizer den. It is growing season.

**Care:** Watch for pests nesting in the pots, if necessary, water with appropriate means. Remove old, withered leaves.

**Sowing:** By the end of April, the first seeds may already be ripe. So be ready at any time with its seed traps to collect the grains. The removed seeds are immediately placed in sand so that they do not dry out. This would cause damage and thwart germination next year.

**May:**

**Watering:** Until the leaves have hardened must still be well watered.

**Fertilizer:** thin, careful application of the first fertilizer, too much will only harm, several times in small quantities is more beneficial. If possible, take natural fertilizer, such as dried cow dung

**Pests:** Some pests are in the pots during the day, only at night they are active on the surface. That is to pay attention and, if necessary, fight them with appropriate means.

**Strahlung:** Da direkte Sonneneinstrahlung schlecht für die Hepatica ist, sollte man eine ca. 50%ige Schattierung gewährleisten.

**Seeds:** It is still harvest time for seeds, so check carefully and harvest them.

**June:**

**Watering:** Accurate watering is required, if you keep the plants too wet they will get root damage. It is better to keep them a little drier and water the individual pots as needed..

**Fertilizer:** You can still fertilize until the end of the month, after that there is rest.

**Pests:** Also this month the roots are at risk from too much wetness. Take precautions, water with fungicide if necessary..

**Radiation:** Ensure sufficient shade as in the previous month.

**July:**

**Watering:** It is better to keep the pots dry, over-spraying is sufficient in most cases.

**Temperature:** provide coolness through shade and ventilation, hepatica do not like too hot temperatures.



`Odoriko`



`Oman-no-kata`



`Omurasaki`



`Ranshihou`

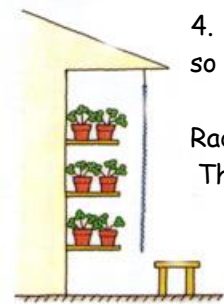


`Rinsen`

**Pests:** Root diseases are most common in July and August. Ensure timely control.

**Rescue:**

1. the rotten part is cut off.
2. the interface is thoroughly cleaned under running water.
3. Danach mit Holzkohle oder Pilzmittel besprühen.
4. wrap the root in sphagnum moss, do not keep too wet, so you can save the plant..



**Radiation:**

The shading should be increased to 80%.

### August:

**Watering:** It should not be watered during the hot period, but only in the morning. Very effective is spraying the leaves.

**Fertilize:** Refrain from fertilizing at high temperatures.

**Pests:** you should not always use the same means of control, carefully and selectively use pesticides.

**Transplanting:** Since you can also repot the hepatica in the fall, you should mix the appropriate soil already now.

### September:

**Watering:** Before repotting, the amount of water should be maintained from July and August. After that, when the soil is new and dries out quickly, you need to water in time.

**Fertilization:** Fertilization is not mandatory, but you can give a little fertilizer 14 days after repotting.

**Pests:** As temperatures drop, diseases are reduced.

**Radiation:** Even in September you should keep the 80% shading.

### October:

**Watering:** The strong growth of the roots requires a lot of water.

**Fertilization:** Gradually you can reduce fertilizing, only occasionally use foliar fertilizers. Fertilizers containing iron now strengthen the plant.

**Pests:** Almost no pests appear now. But caution is always advised.

**Radiation:** The shading can now be reduced to 50%..

**Repotting:** Throughout the month can be repotted. If there are only small buds, you also reduce the leaves.



`Ruyokurei`



`Ryokka`



`Rvokuun`



`Saichou`



`Seizan`



## November:

Watering: The soil must not be too dry, water sufficiently, but do not cause waterlogging.!

Radiation: the shadow can now be removed, 20-30% normal shading is sufficient.

Transplanting: With some exceptions, you should be finished repotting. Very late transplanted Hepatica should not be exposed to too great minus temperatures. Possibly keep completely frost-free.

Leaves: In winter, care should be taken to dry out the leaves. Light foliage protection or covering with suitable material is recommended. After all, you want to be able to show a perfect plant in the spring.

## Überwinterungstipp für den Garten

We have read a lot about the culture in pots in the cold house or window-covered boxes in the garden. But what if you do not have all this available and have to make do only with your normal garden. Here, too, there are now experiences in Europe with the Japanese Hepatica. Since the Japanese Hepatica do not tolerate greater winter wetness, one can help oneself with some precautions.

- 1) You can grow the plants in clay pots; you take very permeable soil substrates. Large proportions of pumice and lava, 50% each, have proved successful.
- 2) The clay pots are sunk into the ground in a suitable place in the garden. The edge of the pot should protrude about 1-2 cm from the surrounding substrate. This serves as a kind of wick, the excess moisture can escape.
- 3) In the bottom of the pots you can still put some drainage in the form of crushed stones.
- 4) In cold, strong winds, you should cover the plants with a few fir branches, this can protect the leaves from too much drying. Suitable foliage can also be used as a protective cover.

This method we have already tried in many gardens. Even in dry, cold areas hepatica so well over the winter. It would be a pity to give up such beautiful hepatica.



`Seiran`



`Shingyoku`



`Shihouden`



`Sekisyou`



`Shikouden`



`Shikou-Typ`

