

Site conditions in the sandy garden

Hepatica nobilis var. *nobilis* (Garsault)

It generally succeeds to settle in the garden the first large plant, bought from the gardener or inherited from a good friend. Provided that it was not immediately boldly disassembled into individual rosettes, and spring is not too far advanced, this action is also very convenient, if it is the "ordinary" (pardon), universally known blue liverwort. Gardeners and hepatica should first learn to deal with each other, because *Hepatica nobilis* var. *nobilis*, our central European liverwort, can also be quite bitchy if it doesn't get what it likes. So what does it want to have?

Its long, net-like roots should not become dry, so quickly transplant and water. Net roots need loose, humus-rich soil (forest soil!). *Hepatica nobilis* grows in deciduous forest, occasionally in mixed forests, rarely in coniferous forest, thus it receives sufficient rain and light in the colder half of the year (September to March). Once the canopy of the trees has closed, it is very shady and very dry, as the tree roots take away most of the moisture. *Hepatica* are thus alternate-humidity plants that can tolerate a relatively large amount of drought in the summer. In planting places that are always damp, you can usually tell by their stubby root remains that they are not comfortable, but at most survive.

Every gardener and lover of these plants should try to find or establish in his garden the conditions of deciduous forest with leaf fall (leave leaves), summer drought and shade, loose forest soils, winter moisture with good water drainage, company of forest floor plants with never full sun under bushes and trees. If he then gives each plant time to develop into a thick bush before proceeding to divide it. If he does this division as early in the year as possible, quietly in bud or bloom, then all should actually go well. In this way he can continue to try and complete his experience on other, possibly more precious species and varieties.

Marlene Ahlburg
Januar 2000



H. nob. var. nob.
`Marmorata Hellviolett`



H. nob. var. nob. `Blau`



H. nob. var. nob. `Weiß`



H. nob. var. nob. `Isla Hall`