

2002



This year marks Delaware Nursery & Landscape Association's Eighth Annual Plant of the Year selection. The 2002 Herbaceous plant is *Helleborus Xhybridus*. The 2002 Woody plant is *Nyssa Sylvatica*. These plants were chosen because they are particularly well suited to thrive in Delaware.

Helleborus Xhybridus

The lenton rose is one of the finest low-growing, early-flowering plants in cultivation and no garden should be without several clumps, says Allan Armitage in his *Herbaceous Perennial Plants* book. The 12 to 16 inch wide, leathery dark green leaves are showy all year. Nodding flowers in colors from white to plum appear while we are still in the middle of winter in Delaware. Flowers last for 8-10 weeks on the plants and make great cut flowers, lasting for several weeks in a vase indoors. Lenton rose is easy to grow, requiring only a little shade and moisture.



*Photo by Becky Dean
North Creek Nurseries*

Nyssa Sylvatica

This beautiful native tree goes by the common names of black tupelo, black gum or sour gum. It is the first forest tree in Delaware to show fall color. Dark lustrous green leaves turn from fluorescent yellow to orange to scarlet. Young trees are somewhat pyramidal, with strongly horizontal branches and pendulous lower branches, similar to a pin oak. Consider this a large shade tree reaching 50' in height (and rarely up to 100') with a 30' spread. *Nyssa* should be transplanted in the early spring and prefers a moist, well drained, acid soil. Very effective in groves or at the forest edge, this tree adds grace throughout the growing season and a bright blaze of red in the fall.

Photo by Horticipia, Inc.