

# Fort Worth Botanic Garden Perennial Garden



## “What’s Bloomin’ NOW?”

March



### Lenten Rose

Pink and white Lenten roses, *Helleborus orientalis*, are blooming in 8-16 inch tall groups of evergreen foliage. This flower, in the Buttercup family (*Ranunculaceae*), is native to Europe, particularly Greece and Turkey. Not actually a rose, the flower gets its name because it blooms rose colored blooms during Lent.

### Flowering Quince



This deciduous shrub, which frequently was called japonica in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, is prized for its early spring flowers, not its hard fruit.

Topics for this month are:

- Early spring bulbs such as many types of daffodils (see banner picture)
  - Plant bulbs in fall for spring blooms.
  - Bulbs appropriate for our area will naturalize and frequently spread.
  - Late freezes in mid-20’s or lower will cause stems to become unable to support the blooms but won’t hurt the bulb. They will bloom again next year.
  - A light freeze will usually not harm the blooms.
- Flowering shrubs and vines such as flowering quince, forsythia, and Carolina jasmine
- Lenten roses
- Hyacinths
- Evergreen foliage plants such as holly ferns, leopard plants, bear’s breeches, and aspidistra provide green spots in the still winter brown garden
- Pincushion flowers
- Evergreen Chinese fringe plant, *Loropetalum*, whose blooms are not very winter hardy, have lost their early purple blooms due to the freezes in February.