

Hungarian Stamps 2011

MAGYAR POSTA
STAMP ISSUE
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PROTECTED HUNGARIAN FLOWERS: LENTEN ROSE



Magyar Posta presents a protected Hungarian flower, the purple lenten rose, on its new DOMESTIC REGISTERED regular stamp with no value indicated.

The purple lenten rose (*Helleborus purpurascens*) is a dicotyledon and belongs to the buttercup (*Ranunculaceae*) family.

Its stout rootstock has shoots of thin roots. The long stemmed leaves are palmate with lance-shaped leaflets with serrated edges. The floral axis develops in spring with flowers 6 to 8 cm in diameter. The flower has 5 sepals, which form a ring of nectaries. Its gynoecium is comprised of 3 to 6 fused carpels. Its follicle has three longitudinal slits with sev-

eral small round seeds. It is found in Hungary in hornbeam and oak forests in the Northern Mountain Range. The sepals do not fall as petals would, but remain on the plant for a long time. The lenten rose flowers in March and April.

It is a medicinal plant but highly toxic and today is only used in veterinary science. As all hellebores, every part of the plant is poisonous. (*Source: hu.wikipedia.org*)

The stamp shows the protected Hungarian flower, the purple lenten rose. Under UV light a yellow-green guilloche pattern becomes visible on the stamps.

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Date of issue: 2 May 2011 • Face value: DOMESTIC REGISTERED (HUF 315 at the time of release) • Number of copies issued: dependent on demand. • Perforation size of stamp: 26 x 33 mm • Printing method: offset and UV printing • Printed by Állami Nyomda • Designed by Péter Berky