



American Hosta Society

Rob Mortko
Vice President Genus *Hosta*
16370 W. 138th Terrace
Olathe, KS 66062-5314
913-829-0760
Rob@HostaGuy.com

January 9, 2013

Fellow hosta lovers,

Happy New Year !!!

Hostas continue to enjoy an all time high in popularity, and more and more garden enthusiasts are becoming increasingly aware of all the positives this plant has to offer. And yet we continue to battle both hosta viruses (primarily HVX) and foliar nematodes. We are currently tackling the HVX issue. The more troublesome issue to many hosta enthusiasts is nematodes. HVX doesn't move around without our help; nematodes do.

The American Hosta Society, in keeping with our mission statement to further the education and understanding of the genus *Hosta*, wishes to pursue additional nematode research with the stated goal of developing an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) solution. We might normally wait until the current HVX research project is complete to introduce a new research program. However the feedback from both you and the AHS Board was clear - get some answers to the growing nematode problem and get them ASAP.

The AHS requested a proposal from Dr. Parwinder Grewal at The Ohio State University who has performed prior nematode research for us. We outlined specific objectives for the research as follows. Most important is defining the entire nematode life cycle and their seasonal movement both upward and downward before we begin testing and development of an IPM protocol. Our hope is that they may be much easier to treat if we know when they are on the move.

- Document other shade perennials that are affected by foliar nematodes (i.e. shade tolerant plants that would normally be grown in close proximity of hostas)
- Confirm key aspects of prior research including: the upward migration of nematodes in spring and summer and under what specific circumstances this occurs (temperature, humidity, plant growth phase, etc); do they migrate solely on the exterior surface of the plant; how do they enter the leaf – stoma only or other pathway as well; do some nematodes remain behind in the soil/crown; in what state (worms, eggs) do nematodes overwinter
- Document downward migration of nematodes in late summer/fall (note that many of us have tested for the presence of nematodes on an affected leaf late in the year and could not find any)
- Document when/where eggs are laid and if they can exist in a prolonged “dormant” state

- Document movement of nematodes from one plant family/genus to another when planted in close proximity
- Efficacy testing of treatments and existing available pesticides (also examine effect of application timing based on life cycle understanding from above) including (but not necessarily limited to): thermal treatment (both hot air and hot water), Imidacloprid, Di-Syston, Cygon, Pylon, Zeritol, AzaMax, chitinous material, and other chemicals that Dr. Grewal might recommend
- A final written report along with semi-annual progress reports

The proposed budget for this research is USD \$100,000. The good news is that we have applied for a matching grant program available at OSU. That still leaves \$50,000 to be raised. At the recent AHS Fall Executive Committee meeting the AHS approved a \$5000 donation for this effort.

A copy of the OSU proposal is attached for your reference. If you wish to print the proposal please note the length of the document as it conforms to the required OSU grant proposal format.

Our hope is that we can fund the entire proposed scope of research. Our intent is to confirm our available funding level this spring with the research to begin shortly thereafter. We expect completion of this project within two calendar years. Please note that we are also approaching other organizations (like the Perennial Plant Association) since foliar nematodes are not specific to hosta alone. We hope to hear about the OSU matching grant in early April.

I am requesting all individual AHS members, local and regional hosta societies, and hosta growers to consider a generous contribution to this project. As this is a two-year project, you may opt to make a one-time donation, or you may make a partial donation at this time and pledge additional funds for next year.

We can improve the health and vitality of our hosta gardens through education and research. We can assist the general public by sharing that information. Please help support our mission by making a contribution today. **Please make your check payable to: "The American Hosta Society" and designate it for "Nematode Research"**. Contributions can be mailed to me at my home address listed above. **Your response by April 1st will enable us to confirm our available funding.**

Hosta'ly yours,





American Hosta Society Nematode Research Project Pledge Form

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Name | |
| Organization (if applicable) | |
| | |
| Street Address | |
| City, State, Zip | |
| E-mail Address | |
| Phone Number | |
| | |
| Total Amount Pledged | |
| Check Enclosed for | |
| | |
| Comments | |

Please make your check payable to: "The American Hosta Society" and designate it for "Nematode Research".

Please return your pledge form and check to:

Rob Mortko
AHS VP – Genus Hosta
16370 W. 138th Terr
Olathe, KS 66062

Thank you for your commitment to The American Hosta Society.