



The American Hosta Society

July 2023

eNewsletter



H. 'Liberty'

J. Machen, Jr 2000

(Photo by Mary Vertz)

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President's Message

Amy Peterson, Oakdale, MN

It is with great anticipation that I transition into my leadership role as the new AHS President in 2023. Many thanks to those stepping down for their service, and I look forward to serving with my fellow Board members to continue promoting the love of Hosta and objectives of AHS. In this first writing I must acknowledge the great job done by the 2023 AHS convention planning team. For those not at the 2023 convention in Ames, IA you missed a lot of wonderful tour gardens, a fine selection of vendors, many unique auction plants, interesting speakers, and great entries in the Hosta show. All events were well organized and executed. The convention was also a great gathering of old friends & an opportunity to make new friends. The 2024 convention co-chairs gave a tantalizing presentation of what to expect in Marlborough, MA and offered a reduced registration rate. Go to the AHS website for more details on convention content and to register!

While many have been long-standing volunteers who share their time and talents there is always a need for more active membership participation in both local Hosta societies as well as AHS to keep these organizations viable. Without active participation and a willingness to serve, many societies are sadly folding. Someone is always needed to plan and organize events and lead in general. AHS and I assume most local Hosta Societies lean toward an older membership and we are thankful for their ongoing participation. But all are attempting to attract younger members too, in anticipation of future needs. Existing and new volunteers want to be comfortable in their role, understand expectations for duties and time commitment. New volunteers often have different ways or ideas about how to accomplish the job and we all need to be open to new ways of doing things to encourage new volunteer participation. Everyone wants to succeed, and it is well known people are quicker to criticize than to praise. So, the care and feeding of any groups volunteers is critical to ongoing participation for both small and large volunteer tasks. In closing I ask us all to embrace transitions and actively participate in some way.

“Many hands make light work” as demonstrated by the 2023 convention planning team & volunteers – THANK YOU!! Lastly, thank you to all the convention attendees and donors for your support of AHS!

Amy Peterson,
AHS President



Hostas and Associates

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

Caps off to Epimediums

By Glenn Herold

Photos by Glenn Herold

I am often asked what my favorite tree is, or which hosta I prefer. I usually sidestep the question, for my answer may depend on the season of the year or which was my most recent purchase. Rarely am I asked which is my most favored ground cover, but if I were to be faced with such a query, my response would be immediate and resolute – it's *Epimedium*, commonly known as barrenwort, bishop's cap, fairy wings, or just plain epimedium.

Epimedium is a genus of the barberry family that consists of about 65 species and many hybrids. Most are endemic to China, but a few are found in the Mediterranean region. They are herbaceous perennials that may or may not retain their foliage through the winter, depending on the species and how cold the winter may be. Those that die back tend to be more winter hardy than the evergreen species, but even some of those with persistent foliage have no trouble with our zone 5 Wisconsin winters. Countless new cultivars have been introduced in recent years and many have not yet been tested under Midwest conditions. Epimediums tend to spread slowly through underground stems called rhizomes. Though they eventually form a dense colony, they rarely become invasive.

The leaves of barrenwort are in two groups of three and are often tinged pink or red in the spring. Some have an encore by turning yellow, red, or bronze in the fall. Flowers of most commercially available epimediums emerge in early spring. Since the previous year's foliage may impede the flower show, I cut it down with a string trimmer before the flowers emerge. Petals of the flowers may be spurred and often resemble a bishop's cap, hence one of the common names. They may be white, yellow, red, lavender, or bicolored. Epimediums grow best if the soil is amended with organic matter, but have the ability to tolerate any well-drained site. Be patient, as they are slow to establish. Provide supplemental water until they are



Epimedium grandiflorum 'Lilafee'

well established, but after that they are very low maintenance. Barrenworts are one of the few plants that can endure dry soils and shade. Hostas are an excellent companion plant, as they grow best under similar conditions.

The majority of plants that are readily available are either cultivars of the species *Epimedium grandiflorum* or hybrids with it. I grow the cultivars 'Lilafee', which has mottled foliage and lavender purple flowers, 'Princess Susan', the flowers of which are white and purple, 'Sirius', which has large white-spurred flowers, and 'Queen Esta', which has lavender flowers and intense purple spring growth.



Epimedium grandiflorum 'Princess Susan'



Epimedium grandiflorum 'Queen Esta'



Epimedium grandiflorum 'Sirius'



Epimedium x versicolor 'Sulphureum'

Epimedium x versicolor, which is a hybrid with *Epimedium pinnatum*, is best known for the yellow-flowered cultivar 'Sulphureum'. It is readily available, as is the hybrid *Epimedium x rubrum*, a cross between *Epimedium grandiflorum* and *Epimedium alpinum*. As the name implies, it has red flowers. *Epimedium x youngianum*, a hybrid with *Epimedium diphylum*, is a small plant, topping out at six to eight inches. 'Niveum' has white flowers and 'Baby Doll Pink' has pale pink flowers. These are even slower to establish and spread than other epimediums, so be patient.

Epimedium x warleyense is a cross between *Epimedium alpinum* and *Epimedium pinnatum* and boasts large orange flowers. My most unusual epimedium is 'Amber Queen', which is a cross between *Epimedium* 'Caramel' and *Epimedium flavum*. The large yellow flowers appear later than my other plants. Leaves of this cultivar have a spiny margin.



Epimedium x rubrum



Epimedium youngianum 'Niveum'

Epimediums have been used medicinally in China to remedy fatigue, arthritis, and nerve pain, but I think their best use is in the shade garden. I have a few places where the aggressive shallow roots of Norway maple cause stunting of hostas growing in close proximity to the trunk and starve them of moisture.

Epimediums are the perfect remedy for those tough areas. As their popularity grows, availability of improved cultivars is increasing. Though they are still somewhat pricey, I can rationalize their purchase, knowing that they will last for a lifetime. Hopefully, you too will discover the beauty and toughness of epimediums.



Epimedium x warleyense



Epimedium grandiflorum 'Pretty in Pink'



Epimedium 'Pink Champagne'

Additional articles on plants and gardening can be found on my blog:
<https://TheCottageGardener53012.Wordpress.com>



GO HOSTAS!

Warren I. Pollock, Glen Mills, PA

GO HOSTAS!



H.' Blue Mouse Ears'

MINI HOSTAS: GROWING THEM SUCCESSFULLY

Warren I. Pollock
Glen Mills, PA
giboshiwip@aol.com
Mini photos from AHS Registrations



H.' Daisy Doolittle'

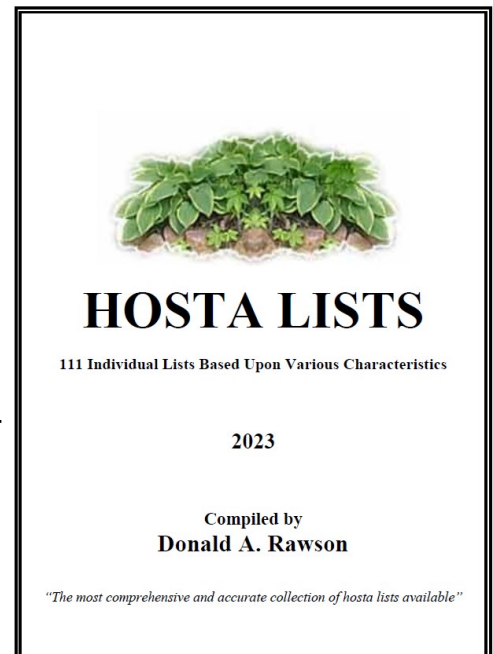
Years ago, I gave presentations on mini hostas at local hosta clubs, regional conferences, Hardy Plant Society meetings and Hosta College (once). I brought to the meetings a Kodak 35mm slide carousel crammed with slides. (Do you remember 35mm slides?) Enthusiastic about the topic, I'd often lectured for over an hour. The presentation was well received, questions were numerous, and I enjoyed the opportunity to meet and discuss minis with hosta enthusiasts.

If the meeting was in the growing season, I'd bring some mini hostas in self-watering containers. (I would detail these pots at the presentation's end.)

Almost yearly since that exciting era, I've gotten requests to publish the lecture from geriatrics who attended presentations and especially from keen folks who had heard about it. Well, I've finally gotten around to publishing it. Here's an updated version with input from colleagues.

What's a mini hosta? The American Hosta Society established the leaf size for miniature hostas as those hostas with **leaf area of less than 6 square inches**.

Hosta Lists 2023 is a 175-page spiral-bound, 8.5 x 11 inch comprehensive reference tome published by Donald A. Rawson, Comstock Park, Michigan. There are 111 individual lists compiled by him that group hostas according to various characteristics. Two lists cite all registered and unregistered miniature hostas *with their leaf dimensions*. (See the end of *Go Hostas!* for more information on Don's *Hosta Lists 2023*.)



However, the American Hosta Society's annotation on minis, creates an interesting conundrum. Mini hostas in gardens and those sold in the trade likely are larger—sometimes considerably—than the registration dimensions. This is because the plants have grown in size since their registrations. Hostadom must always take this into consideration.

Which minis are my favorites? It's a long list:

H. 'Baby Bunting'

H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'

H. 'Cheatin Heart'

H. 'Country Mouse'

H. 'Cracker Crumbs'

H. 'Daisy Doolittle'

H. 'Dixie Chick'

H. 'Lakeside Cricket'

H. 'Little Jay'

H. 'Little Wonder'

H. 'Mini Skirt'

H. minor

H. 'Peanut'

H. 'Shining Tot'

H. 'Silver Threads and Golden Needles'

H. 'Sun Mouse'

H. 'Surprised by Joy'

H. 'Teeny-weeny Bikini'

H. 'X-Ray'



H. 'Baby Bunting'



H. 'Teeny-weeny Bikini'

H. 'Blue Mouse Ears', 'Cracker Crumbs', 'Daisy Doolittle', 'Mini Skirt' and 'Sun Mouse' rank the highest.



H. 'Cracker Crumbs'



H. 'Mini Skirt'

I asked Don Rawson, AHS Nomenclature co-chair, for his favorites? He replied that he does not grow very many minis, but if he did, these would be on the list of his favorites:

- H.* 'Blue Mouse Ears'
- H.* 'Mighty Mouse'
- H.* 'Country Mouse'
- H.* 'Sun Mouse'
- H.* 'Cherish'
- H.* 'Cracker Crumbs'
- H.* 'Pure Heart'
- H.* 'Shining Tot'



H. 'Cherish'

I also asked Mary Vertz, AHS eNewsletter editor, for her favorite minis. She responded:

- H.* 'Green Eyes'
- H.* 'Lakeside Whizzit'
- H.* 'Twist of Lime'
- H.* 'Littlest Angel'
- H.* 'Pandora's Box'
- H.* 'Tinkle'



H. 'Twist of Lime'

BEST GROWING CONDITIONS

1. Sharp, rapid drainage (as much as 50% grit, etc. added to growing medium)
2. Soil continually moist
3. Light / dappled shade. Sun in morning and some direct sun in afternoon
4. Some indirect sun all day for finicky plants
5. Good air circulation
6. Strong root system (initially developed in pots)
7. Roots not in competition with other plants' roots, in particular aggressive tree roots
8. Leaves kept dry, especially if leaves have large amount of white tissue in center
9. Light mulch cover
10. Overwintering with mulch covering until well established.

LANDSCAPING with MINIS

A single mini can easily get lost — be unappreciated — planted with large-leaved plants.

But a single mini in a special container, such as a trough, with a few other mini-leaved plants, can be eye catching.

OPTIMUM SOIL

50% solids

25% air spaces

25% water space

Add grit, pea gravel, pine bark, etc. to garden soil and soilless media.

The coarser the additive, the larger the air spaces in the media.

USUALLY PREFERRED: Beds with only — or mostly — minis.

HIGHLY DESIRABLE: Raised / elevated beds. This permits viewing the minis at "belt level".

MAGNESIUM (Mg)

Darkens green coloring. Can intensify blue coloring. Apply as **Epson Salt** (magnesium sulfate).

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: Miracle-Grow^[R] Tomato Plant Food. It contains **0.5% Mg**. (Thanks Bob Solberg of Green Hill Farm for the tip.)

NITROGEN

Hostas need abundant NITROGEN (as liquid nitrate) when developing their leaves.

Apply N fertilizer EARLY in season — best just before leaf tips emerge.

I use Scotts^[R] Starter Lawn granules: 20% N, 27% P, 5% K. **~10% of its NITROGEN released in first heavy watering.** The other elements and remaining N released slowly during season.

WATER

Water is more important than fertilizer.

Water, water and water *more*. *Don't depend on Mother Nature's rains.*

You cannot give your hostas enough water IF drainage is good.

COPIOUS watering is essential in hot summer to prevent DRY ROT.

TONICS

The most common are:

Liquid Seaweed (kelp): 1 tbl. / gallon water.

"Spray-N-Grow" (hawked on TV QVC channel): follow instructions.

SUPERthrive^[TM]: 5 drops / gallon water semi-weekly.

HB-101^[R] (Japanese plant extract): 5 drops / gal water. Apply semi-weekly.

I've spent considerable effort trying to assess what TONICS do. My conclusion: KELP and "Spray-N-Grow" make minis "look better". The late Peter Ruh of Chesterland, Ohio, made the same assessment.

TROUGHS

*"Troughs and minis. Troughs and minis. They go together." **That's my adaptation of a well-known song.***

Hypertufa troughs are popular and when planted with minis have a distinctive professional look.

- 1. Make sure drainage is adequate. I recommend 1/2-inch holes 6 inches apart. Cover each hole with a piece of aluminum or fiberglass screening.**
- 2. DO NOT fill trough with potting media up to top of container. You want a small gap, about 3/8 inch, between potting media and rim. This void space helps heavy watering to not splash on the leaves.**
3. Stone and pebble mulches on the soil do this also and also impart an attractive decorative appearance. **Make sure there is space (~1/8 inch) between trough and what it's sitting on. This helps water freely draining from the drainage holes.** For shims, I use old credit cards and plastic hotel keys. stacking them on top of each other.
- 4. Assure trough is level. Use carpenter's level and shims.**
- 5. DO NOT put shards, gravel or stones in bottom of trough** unless depth of soil needs to be decreased. **THEY NEITHER ASSURE GOOD-NOR IMPROVE DRAINAGE.** Good drainage comes from good drainage potting soil and drainage holes.
- 6. USE SHARP-DRAINING POTTING SOIL.** Add grit, etc.
- 7. WATER OFTEN and GENTLY. KEEP SOIL MOIST.**
- 8. Continually be on the alert for destructive critters.**

SELF-WATERING PLANTERS

All my minis are grown in these containers. Their name is a bit confusing: You still have to water, but frequency of watering is reduced.

These planters have a built-in water reservoir at the container's bottom. Large openings for water entry are in the container's side. I use a long-nose Haws^[R] watering can. Water in the reservoir is drawn upward, saturating the potting soil and watering the roots. As with all plant containers, you have to judge when the plant needs water and supply it. All in all, I have found these pots work.

Bloem Living Company in Hudsonville, Michigan, near Grand Rapids, makes them. Amazon.com sells them as does Lowe's and many nurseries. They come in different pot designs and colors. Sizes are from 6-in to 16-in diameter. They have a built-in saucer. Target sells self-watering plant containers in a simple utilitarian design.

HINT: Target's prices are a fraction of Bloem's prices.



H. 'Green Eyes'



H. 'Lakeside Whizzit'



H. 'Lakeside Cricket'



H. 'Country Mouse'



HOSTA LISTS 2023

Compiled by Donald A. Rawson

1. 111 individual lists which group hostas according to various characteristics.
2. Contains over 24,000 entries.
3. The most comprehensive and accurate collection of lists available anywhere.
4. A “must have” for anyone’s hosta library.
5. Here are examples of just a few of the lists:

Branched-Scape Hostas

Closed-Flowered Hostas

Convexly-Cupped Hostas

Difficult-to-Grow Hostas

Double-Flowered Hostas

Drawstring-Leaved Hostas

Fragrant Hostas

Ground Cover Hostas

Large Upright Hostas

Miniature Hostas,

Piecrust-Leaved Hostas

Reblooming Hostas

Red-Petioled Hostas

Rhizomatous Hostas

Serrated-Leaved Hostas

Spider-Flowered Hostas

Sterile Hostas,

Very Dark Green Hostas

Very Round-Leaved Hostas

Very Thick-Leaved Hostas

Editor’s Note: See Don’s article on his *Hosta’s List* in *Hosta Happenin’s*.

GO HOSTAS!



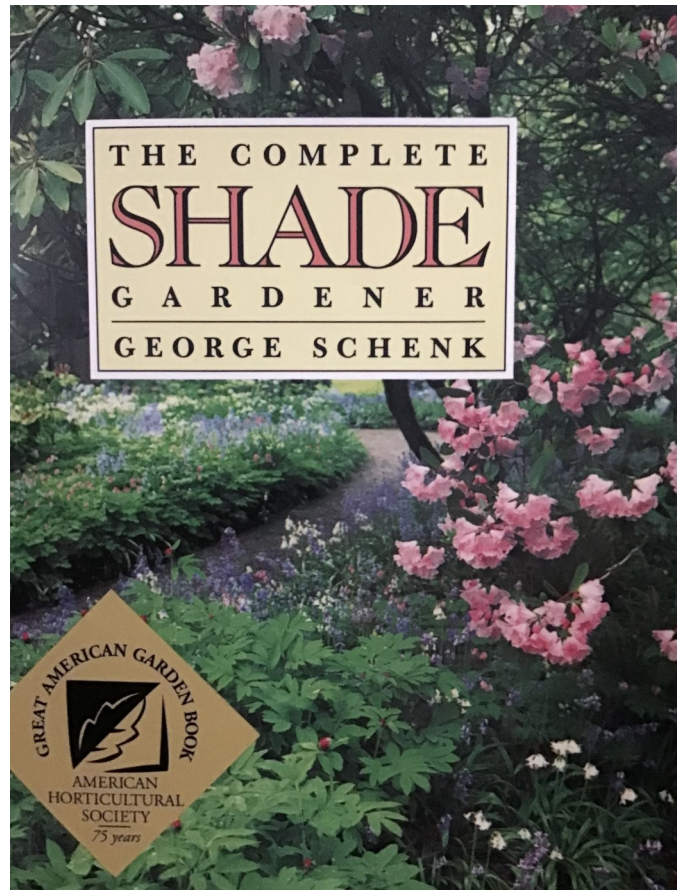
Book Notice

Clyde Crockett, Carmel, IN

The Complete Shade Gardener

By George Schenk (Timber Press: 2004, Second Printing)

In Part 1, “The Art, the Science, and the Delight of It,” is followed by “The Shade Room.” This is a room of very familiar dimensions, *viz.*, height, width, space and with an undefined, at this point, a fourth. When you see what he means, perhaps you will have a recollection like I did. In the early 1980s, I was very much into acquiring plants for my backyard garden and was searching for something I just dreamed up one day— a LifeSaver-colored orange daylily. By chance, I happened to meet Marge Soules, the proprietor of Soules Garden in Indianapolis who told me she had a cultivar that might be what I wanted. When I arrived at her southside Indy garden, I saw hostas there and my gardening life changed forever. It is hard to describe the feeling I had. I can



say that I immediately knew I was going to have to have these plants and began working on a very small area behind the garage for a place for them. It was the only shady area in our yard. I had to do a lot of preparation and I didn’t do it well but good enough to have a little garden of hostas and a few companions. By consulting the literature available, I improved the soil and acquired some very nice cultivars from helpful sources. You might not have liked the choices I made but it was my garden. It had plants that filled the space, were of various heights and widths and it had the fourth dimension—me. That is the underpinning of this book’s excellent parts on trees, shrubs and perennials for your shade garden. You are, like I am, the fourth dimension. The choices are yours. It is your special Shade Room.

Subsequent chapters provide some real treats—tantalizing descriptions of unu-

sual vines, ferns, annuals, and even edibles. While there are chapters on rare and interesting trees (e.g., *Coffea arabica*) shrubs (e.g., *Cyees revoluta*) and companion plant suggestions for a shady area in the perennial section, it is the entry on hostas which will garner the most attention. Hostaphiles might not like this entry but perhaps will appreciate Schenk's straightforward, unvarnished assessment. Best if I quote him after his rather off-hand mention of "shade gardening's most rewarding plants...grouped (chaotically) within this genus". After featuring the likes of *H. plantaginea* (sic), Honey Bells, and *H. Fortunei* (sic), we get this right between the eyes:

"I won't name any more hostas, for their names are in a royal mess. Horticulture in Japan, Europe, and North America has made a busyness of the few hosta species—plants fervent about meeting and hybridizing—the point where the Latin binomial system hardly makes sense when applied to the garden genus. There is a hosta society devoted to putting order in the house, but also bent on introducing new, minutely different hybrids each year."

Have things changed? Please note that these comments were made for the first, 1984, edition. In the present 2004 publication there is an added chapter, "Recent Findings," — new plants to make your garden something to talk about. There is nothing about hostas but you will discover some great companion plants.

The Complete Shade Gardener is a must read for those of us with a lot of shade. Well, actually for all who are avid gardeners who enjoy beautiful prose about things horticultural. Henck is in that special realm of garden writers.

Happy Gardening,
Clyde



The author in his Shade Room. Photo by Don Normark



Hostas Happenin's

Don Rawson, Grand Rapids, MI

Jazzing Up the Garden

– 8 Steps for a Beautiful Landscape –

If you are like me, sometimes you need a little reminder of what is important in life. My wife or mother are usually the ones to offer those gentle words of counsel. I may not always appreciate it at the time, but I know they have my best interest in mind, and I usually need to hear it.

In this article, I likewise would like to provide a few reminders to keep our attention focused on what is important – in our landscapes and in our gardens. We all are well aware of the basics to beautifying our yard and gardens, yet sometimes we need a little nudging to get things done. Here are the simple steps in sprucing up your landscape.

1. Garden cleanup!

If you have not yet done a thorough inspection and cleanup since last fall, now is the time to tackle it. As Larry the cable guy would say, Get'er done.

The first activity in the garden is to pick up, prune up, and rake up. All debris from the previous season must go; it must be cleaned up, discarded, or composted. My rule of thumb is, "Clean up before green up!"

An inventory of garden tools and supplies should be taken. Fertilizer and weed preventer for the season should be obtained. The mower blade should be sharpened, the garden hose replaced, and plant labels should be inspected. Review your notes from the previous season. Plan ahead to keep from getting behind.

And, of course, the garden must be weeded. Your hostas and companions may be downright breathtaking, but weeds are a huge distraction to any landscape. Nobody, absolutely nobody, likes a weedy garden. Weeding is a commitment of time and work, but it looks so nice when the garden is finally weed free. A rigorous and meticulous cleanup is the first order of business at hand, and that includes weeding the garden.



2. Mulch the garden!

Mulching may be the least favorite task of the gardener. But when facing this task, just repeat this line over and over: “Mulching the garden can be so fun, so just dive in and get the job done!”

The benefits of mulch should not be underestimated. Mulch conserves water, maintains roots at an even temperature, enriches the soil, and prevents weed competition. It keeps fungal diseases down by reducing splashing of organisms on plants. Furthermore, mulch reduces erosion, and a garden which is freshly mulched is very appealing. It places the finishing touch to a beautiful and well-maintained landscape.

A variety of materials are suitable for mulch, ranging from shredded bark and wood chips to pine needles, cocoa hulls, and shredded leaves. Washed stone and lava rock are also options. Apply mulch in late spring or early summer after the soil warms up, 2 to 4” deep. Avoid stepping on the hosta shoots while you are do it!

There are a couple of no-no’s when it comes to mulching the garden. The first warning is to stay away from landscape fabric. Those who lay landscape cloth have good intentions in mind, but weeds are still somehow able to penetrate the fabric, and it is a real bugger to take it back up a year or two later. A layer of newspaper placed under the mulch is a better option if a weed blocker is needed.

The other caution when mulching the garden is to not cover the crown of the hostas. They need good air movement to grow their very best. Mulch placed over the crown creates an environment for both fungus and slugs. Stay back a few inches when mulching the garden.

As a side note, a weed preventer such as Preen is well worth the investment. It will save you hours of time in weeding the garden in mid-summer. Apply it before mulching.

3. Jazz up your grass!

A beautiful garden is complemented by a beautiful lawn. An honest assessment of the lawn must be imposed because great gardens and green grass go hand in hand.

Take a drive through your neighborhood. You will find that there are two types of grass: there is bad grass and then there is groovy grass. If you are like me, you appreciate first class grass.

Do NOT ignore the grass! You must be both a gardener and a lawner, my friend. If you are not a good lawner, hire it done. Either way, the lawn should not be neglected.

4. Keep the grass mowed!

It may seem silly that we all need a reminder to mow the grass, but a lawn which needs mowed is the first sign that a landscape is being neglected. The saying is, “If you grow it, then you should mow it!”



Perhaps you have heard of the 3-step program: fertilize, water, and mow. When a lawn is mowed regularly, it keeps the grass at the ideal height for photosynthesis and nutrient absorption. Furthermore, keeping the lawn mowed may be required by local ordinances or homeowners’ association covenants. However, the primary motivation is to keep your landscape looking lush, weed-free, and well maintained. Reminder: keep the grass mowed!

5. Trim the hedges!

The saying is, “Trim the hedges and the edges!” Trim the hedges before they are unreachable, and edge the lawn for maximum curb appeal. It delineates clean lines between your lawn and hardscaping features. Edging prevents grass roots from getting under the driveway and walkways. It keeps your flower beds free of grass and weeds.

Trim the hedges. Your neighbors take note of hedges which are trimmed and trees which are pruned. Listen up: if you’ve known they’re overgrown, then you’re not alone. Keep the lawn and garden prim and proper: trim the hedges and the edges!

6. Jazz up your plants!

Now we are down to the nitty gritty. Have you taken a close look at your plants lately? How are your hostas doing? Plants, by the way, have feelings, like you and me. They may feel the need for water or fertilizer. Water, water, water...especially when it’s so doggone hot. It is perfectly okay to go out there and wet your plants!



Photo by J. Odio. Used by permission.

An application of an organic or synthetic fertilizer (such as 10-10-10) during the first part of summer will be appreciated by your garden treasures. Place the fertilizer around the dripline of your hosta...not on top the crown. Be nice to your plants; kindness goes a long way.

7. Plant some plants!

At some point during the summer, it is a good idea to step back and look at the wide picture. Survey the overall appearance of your garden and landscape. As hostaholics, we tend to buy and plant everything we see, but is your garden getting overcrowded? Is it out of control? Is it becoming a jungle of plants with no thought, no plan, and no organization? Sometimes less is better. For example, large upright hostas show their form best when spaced out, or when sited in a prominent position. Those with red petioles strut their stuff when placed on a wall or pedestal.

*I have a garden of my own,
So many plants all overgrown,
And lots of stuff that you would guess,
That it's a little wilderness.*

On the other hand, perhaps there are sparse areas with not much to hold your attention. If this is the case, you may need to plant some plants! Don't forget to space them according to their mature size, especially large hostas. Small hostas are easy to move, but the giants should be planted and left alone without moving or dividing to become showpieces in the landscape.

8. Add some garden art!

The final step is, "Do your part to add some art!" And while you're at it, add some humor as well. Don't take yourself so seriously. Gardening is supposed to be fun.

Humorous art throughout the garden can include mop head planters, funny plaques and signs, homemade decorations, comical repurposed items, etc. Be creative and whimsical. Garden visitors will get a kick out of it. There's nothing wrong with having a good laugh!



Photo by Rachele Anderson. Used by permission.

Gardening is supposed to be fun. There is nothing wrong with having a good laugh!

We spend so much time putting a tremendous amount of effort into making the garden look just right, but sometimes it just does not work out to our expectations. When disappointments may bring us down, humor in the garden can force a smile or even a chuckle, which in turn will lead us to increased positivity and kick start our gardening enthusiasm. How can a garden visitor be down when there are a couple of plastic pink flamingos prancing through the pansies? Add some garden art...and some gardening humor!

Hopefully, these simple (but important) reminders of the basics will keep our thoughts on what is important to beautifying our yard and gardens. Follow these steps to hit a homerun in your own landscape, and have fun in doing so!

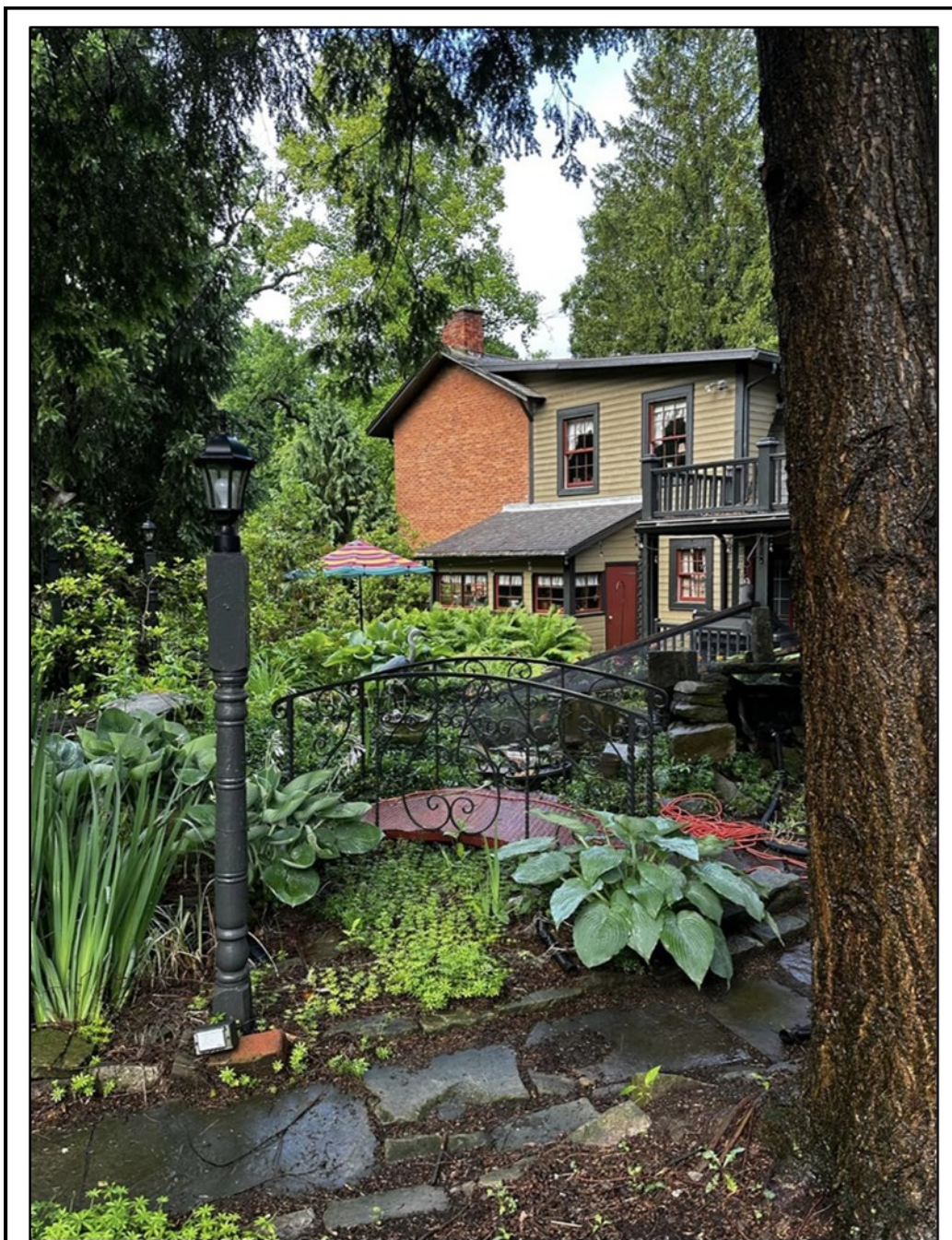


Photo by David Russo. Used by permission.

The garden of Joan and Herbie Altman near Pittsburgh, PA.

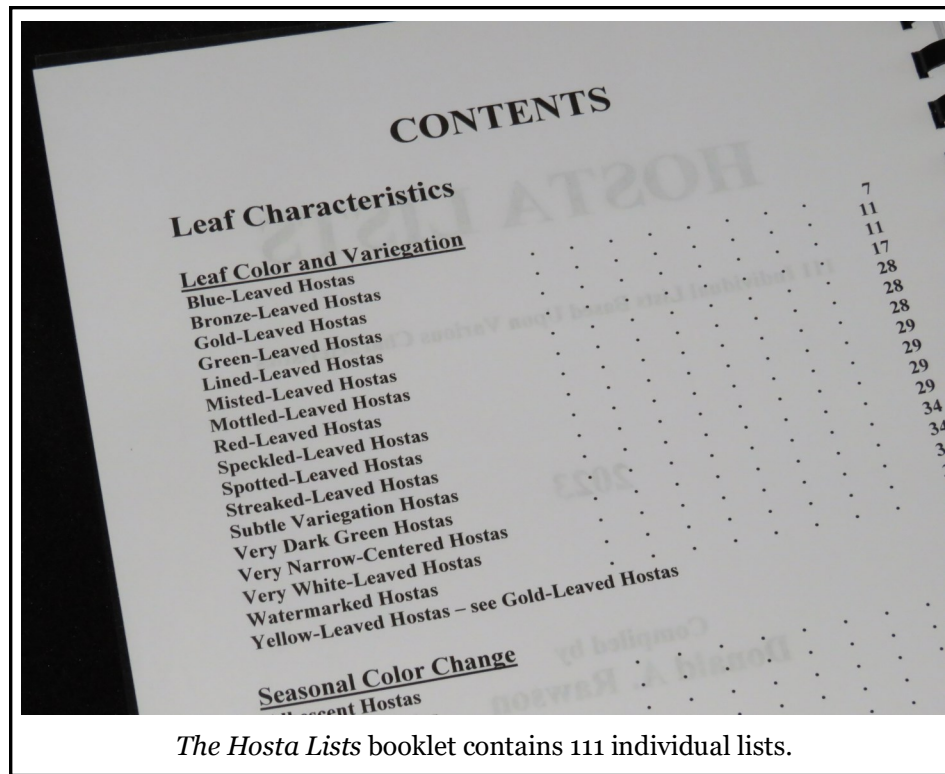


The Hosta Lists:

Essential Resource for the Gardener

Have you ever wondered which hostas do best in full sun? Or which are most susceptible to slug damage? If you are a fan of corrugated hostas, you may wish to know which hostas have puckered foliage. And if you have a collection of tiny hostas, a list of miniatures would be helpful. There is good news for you!

The Hosta Lists is an indispensable collection of 111 individual lists which group hosta species and cultivars according to various characteristics. Compiled over a twenty-six year period and containing over 26,000 entries, this resource represents the most comprehensive and accurate compilation for the genus *Hosta* available. It is a “must have” for anyone’s hosta library.



History

The *Lists* have a long history which can be traced back to the formation of the West Michigan Hosta Society. The 1997 fall newsletter of the Society began by saying, “Over cider and donuts in early October, a group of hostaphiles got together and formed the West Michigan Hosta Society. The mission of the Society is to promote and enjoy hostas as well as educating gardeners about them.”

The task of educating gardeners about hostas was the spark which motivated me, Don Rawson, a founding member of the Society, to consider making lists of hosta species and cultivars based upon specific characteristics. After all, just how many

blue-leaved hostas were there in the 1990s? How many with fragrant flowers, or with red-speckled petioles? Which variegated hostas have a watermark between the center and the margin? And which varieties work well as ground covers? Gardeners worldwide should know. They should have the information at their fingertips...and I was determined to provide it for them regardless of the time and labor that would be involved.

I immediately went to work – in a dedicated endeavor to beat the date for the next club meeting – to make up several lists. I collected every printed catalog and price list I could find. I carefully read all the hosta references in my own library. I perused every website which offered or described hostas. And I drew upon my knowledge of hostas from observations in gardens over the past many years. The product was an assemblage of lists that were integrated into the first club notebook. Subsequently, the lists were expanded as new notebooks were given to club members regularly.

Challenges Along the Way

With any undertaking such as this, there generally are obstacles along the way. One problem I encountered early on was conflicting information from the various sources I consulted. These ranged from how certain hosta names were spelled to the descriptive information which followed. One catalog would describe a cultivar as having white flowers while another would say lavender. One would say blue leaves, while another would say green. I soon learned that making lists which were accurate and reliable would require considerable research on my part...hours and hours of research, to be honest.



Photo by Viktoria Serafin. Used by permission.



Photo by Bert Malkus. Used by permission.

H. ‘Yellow Polka Dot Bikini’ has a green center with a creamy white margin in spring. Later in the season, the center turns white and the margin turns green. A few other cultivars likewise reverse in color. A list titled “Flip-Flop Hostas” includes the names of those which undergo a reversal in variegation. One hosta is even named ‘Flip Flop’.

Accurate and Reliable

There is a line in a Christmas carol about Santa “making a list and checking it twice.” The purpose of proofreading is to improve the quality of the work, ensuring there are no lingering mistakes, and correcting any errors or inconsistencies. It is the final stage of the writing process, and it surely is necessary when compiling a lengthy list with hundreds of entries.

People who are acquainted with me know that I am a perfectionist, even if it means meticulously checking my work two, three, four times or more. I hate to be in fault, especially when it comes to hostas and gardening. So, it only reasons that I want to be as accurate and correct as I possibly can when drafting a list of hostas. I want gardeners to have the information and I want it to be right. I want the spelling of names to be correct (and yes, sometimes the spelling changes). I would not want the reader to be second guessing the trustworthiness of the information given. I do my research, fact-checking everything, and then record my observations as accurately as possible.

Before *The Hosta Lists* came along, the lists found in every catalog and website were different – often with contradictory descriptions or lacking in information. None of the lists were complete. It was the excellent books by Mark Zilis – *The Hosta Handbook* (Zilis, 2000) at first, followed by *The Hostapedia* (Zilis, 2009) – which gave authentication for what I was doing. Even now, the preface to the *Lists* states, “Hosta names are carefully checked for accuracy against the American Hosta Society Registry and *The Hostapedia: An Encyclopedia of Hostas* (Mark R. Zilis, 2009). Mark’s tome gave descriptions for hundreds of hosta cultivars which I had never seen before and I am indebted for the information collected by Mark over the years.

Another resource which has been so helpful over the years is the Hosta Library, accompanied by the MyHostas Database. The thousands upon thousands of photos posted on the Library website have been invaluable. The webmasters, first Bob Axmear and now Bill Meyer and Carol Brashear, regularly expand the Library and send me a list of new entries to decide which hostas should be added to *The Hosta Lists*.

And lastly, I tour dozens upon dozens of hostas gardens throughout the growing season each year for the purpose of collecting details about various hosta cultivars first hand. If I have been to your garden, you have no doubt observed my penchant for taking notes as I walk through. I notice a hosta which is unusually shiny, or a very tall upright cultivar...or one with very wide-spaced veins. The information collected is double-checked and then added to the appropriate lists.

Comprehensive, but not Exhaustive

Should a hosta with blue-green leaves be placed on the list of Blue-Leaved Hostas or Green-Leaved Hostas? Should a variety with 12-inch reddish petioles, with red color at the bottom 2 inches, be included in the list of Red-Petioled Hostas? Which species and cultivars should be included to the list of Spider-Flowered Hostas, when no technical definition exists for “spider flower”?

Admittedly, many of the lists are somewhat subjective. Each gardener has their own perception and their own experience. For example, a hosta which may be difficult to grow for most people may grow well for you, so you may be perplexed as to why it is on the list of Difficult-to-Grow Hostas. A hosta may be rhizomatous in one garden, spreading from here to there, while clump-forming in another growing environment. And as soon as a list of Sterile Hostas is compiled and published, invariably some gardener reports seed set on certain variety which is included on the list.



Photo by Jim Hartmann. Used by permission.



Photo by Duane Hurlbert. Used by permission.

H. 'Grey Ghost' is a chameleon. This cultivar is creamy white in spring and then it turns yellow. By summer, it is green, eventually turning blue. Because of its unique color changes, it is placed on several lists including White-Leaved Hostas, Green-Leaved Hostas, and Blue-Leaved Hostas.

From the beginning, my aim has always been to be as comprehensive as possible. If a particular hosta has a little red on the petioles, it is included on the list of Red-Petioled Hostas. If a variety has blue-green foliage, it is placed both on the list of Blue-Leaved Hostas as well as the list of Green-Leaved Hostas. *H. 'Fragrant Blue'* is on the list of Fragrant-Flowered Hostas, although it is not very fragrant at all.

No list is entirely complete. While I strive to be thorough in my search for all hostas which should be on each list, no list is truly exhaustive. There are just too

many hosta cultivars in gardens worldwide today to be up on them all and to make the lists absolutely exhaustive.

Annual Revision and Additions

An effort is made to keep *The Hosta Lists* updated annually, so revisions and additions are generally made each year in February or March. The descriptions published in the annual *Hosta Registrations* booklet are carefully studied and those new cultivars are then added to the appropriate lists. In fact, it was the work I was doing in compiling *The Hosta Lists* which eventually lead me to serve as Nomenclature Co-chair of the American Hosta Society. To some extent, the tasks go hand in hand.

Furthermore, websites which offer new hostas are scoured each year to add newly-encountered varieties to the list, along with those which have not yet been registered (unfortunately, some originations never are). My intention is to stay current and to make additions to the lists as new hostas come to market. I want gardeners to have the latest information.

A Work in Progress


While the lists are extensive and accurate, *The Hosta Lists* resource remains a work in progress. I often receive emails from gardeners who make suggestions and all input is welcome. In this respect, *The Hosta Lists* are a team effort and I am indebted to all of you for what it is. Send any additions and corrections to donrawson1@gmail.com.

Printed Booklet and Website

With the purpose of making the information contained in *The Hosta Lists* readily available to gardeners, growers, and nurseries worldwide, the notion of obtaining a copyright was never entertained. I have no interest in protecting the *Lists* by legal means; my objective is to get the information out to anyone who needs it. The printed booklet (currently 175 pages) is offered to those who order it for my exact cost; I do not intend to make a financial gain. I have always encouraged hosta gardens and clubs to make copies, as they may so desire. It is just one way I strive to give back to my hosta gardening friends.

The website came along in 2007 when Pieter Klapwijk of Richmond, B. C., Canada offered to post *The Hosta Lists* on-line. That initiative made the *Lists* much more accessible. Today, an average of 175 users log in to the website each day. For the month of May 2023 alone, The Hosta Lists website logged a total of 9,711 visitors. A domain, www.hostalists.org, was obtained in 2014. I appreciate Pieter's work in helping to post the new entries each year; he has been most kind.

All lists are also posted on-line at www.hostalists.org/. A printable pdf is posted on the website, as well.

Leaf Characteristics	Flower Characteristics	Seed Pods	Plant Habit Characteristics	Cultural Characteristics	Analytical Characteristics	General Listings	Hosta Books and Resources	Hosta Theme Gardens	
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The Hosta Lists

Donald A. Rawson, 426 Nine Mile Rd. NE, Comstock Park, MI 49321

The *Hosta Lists* represent a compilation of 111 individual lists which group hosta cultivars and species according to various characteristics. These lists have been compiled over a twenty-six-year period and are updated annually. Containing over 26,000 entries, this is the most complete and accurate collection of lists available. Hosta names are faithfully and carefully checked for accuracy against the *The Hosta Registry* and *The Hostapedia: An Encyclopedia of Hostas* (Mark R. Zilis, 2009). *The Hosta Lists* have displayed their usefulness in years past and will continue to be an invaluable and indispensable resource for gardeners everywhere.

Leaf Characteristics

<p>Leaf Color and Variegation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue-Leaved Hostas Bronze-Leaved Hostas Chartreuse-Leaved Hostas Gold-Leaved Hostas Green-Leaved Hostas Lined-Leaved Hostas Misted-Leaved Hostas Mottled-Leaved Hostas Red-Leaved Hostas Speckled-Leaved Hostas Spotted-Leaved Hostas Streaked-Leaved Hostas Subtle Variegation Hostas Very Dark Green Hostas Very Narrow-Centered Hostas Very White-Leaved Hostas Watermarked Hostas Yellow-Leaved Hostas 	<p>Leaf Shape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contorted-Leaved Hostas Convexly-cupped Hostas Cup-Leaved Hostas Folded-Leaved Hostas Lobed-Leaved Hostas Narrow-Leaved Hostas Ring-Tailed Hostas Twisted-Leaved Hostas Very Round-Leaved Hostas <p>Leaf Margin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drawstring-Leaved Hostas Rippled and Wavy-Leaved Hostas Sawtooth Margin Hostas Serrated-Leaved Hostas <p>Leaf Size</p>	<p>Leaf Substance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very Thin-Leaved Hostas Very Thick-Leaved Hostas <p>Leaf Texture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puckered-Leaved Hostas Wide-Veined Hostas <p>Leaf Surface</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glossy-Leaved Hostas Shiny-Backed Hostas White-Backed Hostas <p>Leaf Petioles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black-Petioled Hostas Red-Petioled Hostas Red-Petioled Polyploid Hostas Short-Petioled Hostas
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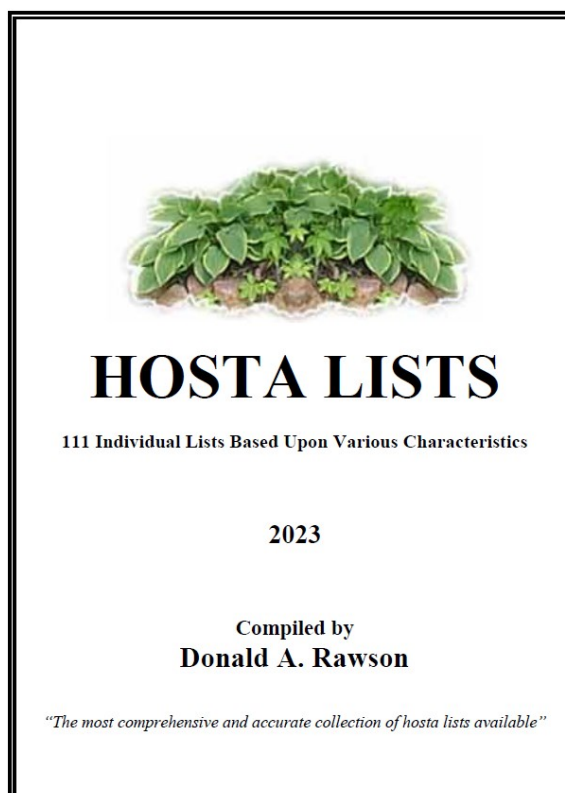
Availability

In my humble opinion, if you are a diehard hostaphile, you need a copy of *The Hosta Lists*. Even the novice gardener will find it helpful. You will refer to it often. Copies of *The Hosta Lists* booklet are available for \$32, plus \$7 shipping & handling. Clubs can order packs of 10 or more at a discount rate and save on shipping. Request shipping quote for foreign sales. Payment by PayPal, check or money order.

8 1/2" × 11" / Comb binding / Clear mylar covers / 175 pages / Over 26,000 entries total

To order:

Don Rawson
426 9 Mile Rd. NE
Comstock Park, MI 49321
donrawson1@gmail.com





Hybridizer Corner . . .

Don Rawson, Grand Rapids, MI

We are so happy that you are interested in hybridizing your very own new hosta. Doing so is a lot of fun! While there will be some challenges along the way, it is a very rewarding pursuit. We hope that the *Hybridizer Corner* will be helpful as you navigate the field of hybridization.

Review

In the last issue, we pointed out some of the resources which are available. They contain much useful information on hybridizing and growing hosta seedlings, ranging from printed publications to Facebook groups, and more. Hopefully you have taken the opportunity to check them out. These resources will give you a solid foundation for starting a hybridizing program and will be an aid in the future. Avail yourself to them!

Hybridizing should be Goal-Oriented

In this column we will look at all aspects of a hybridizing program – from collecting and storing pollen, making crosses, harvesting seed, planting and growing seedlings, evaluating, naming and registering new introductions, and so on. But before we dive into the mechanics of actually making a cross, we should look at setting some goals.

To start with, how familiar are you with hostas? If you are a complete novice, it would be quite beneficial to first accustom yourself to the world of hostas. Take a good look at the many varieties which are already growing in gardens near you – perhaps those of your local hosta club members – and take note of which ones draw your attention. Do you find some to be more appealing than others? You will be most excited about creating new hostas which you are attracted to.

If possible, travel to the gardens of hybridizers whom you may know. Visiting and talking with successful hybridizers is particularly beneficial, not only for gathering information from those who have gone before you, but for generating enthusiasm! As a side note, hybridizers are often willing to share some of their very own originations with you.



Photo by Laura Fisher DeFlora. Used by permission.

Hybridizers often are more than willing to share their knowledge and experience with you, and sometimes even their plants. Here, David Bowe of Chagrin Falls, OH poses with one of his creations, H. 'Cupid's Bow'. The cross was 'Powder Puff' x 'Tot Tot'. 'Cupid's Bow' was registered in 2020 after growing to a nice size clump, then dividing and lining out pieces to be sure it could be produced readily, a process that took around 7-8 years. Thus far, David has registered 24 of his own originations.

Once you have focused on what type of hostas you find the most visually interesting, it is time to begin thinking about goals. Hybridizing should be goal-oriented. Like many of life activities, establishing goals is the first step to getting a task done, and setting goals is important in any well thought-out hybridizing program. Doing so will help to determine which plants to cross in order to make the brand new hosta that matches your goal. Do some dreaming! You need to visualize the plant which you wish to create.

Do you want to work on gigantic hostas? Or, perhaps on corrugated and cupped creations? Some hybridizers are focused on red petioles and leaves while others work toward superior leaf substance, round leaf shape, or beautifully rippled margins. New variegation patterns are always fascinating. Flower shapes and colors are also items to consider.

At this point, write down your hybridizing goals. Your goals do not to be extremely detailed or complex. Keep them realistic. Many a hybridizer has gone before

you and tried many combinations, only to realize the goal that was set is simply unrealistic.

Perhaps you want to improve the margin on a cultivar which is already growing in your garden. Or, you may want to make a slightly puckered hosta even more corrugated.

You may have some large hostas, but you envision one which is greater in size than any you have ever encountered. The point is that if you love great big, blue hostas, you need not waste your time working with small gold plants. The idea is to bring a little focus to your hybridizing efforts.

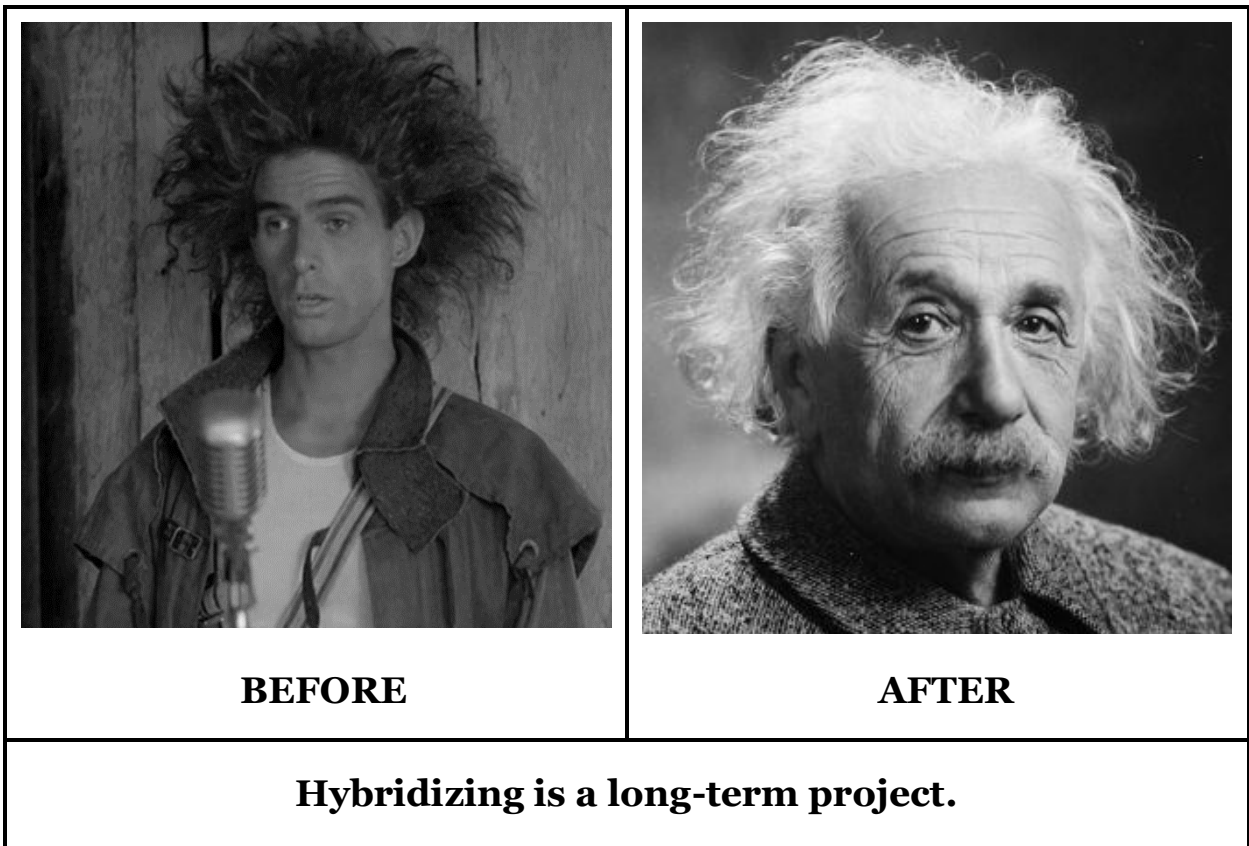
- 1. Set a hybridizing goal.**
- 2. Make sure your goal is realistic.**
- 3. Choose parent plants which will most likely produce the intended results.**

Before you get too involved, an assessment of the amount of space you have is in order. Large hostas require much more space than smaller varieties and generally need to be grown for six years or more to reveal their mature characteristics. This is why having detailed goals is crucial. You only have a certain amount of space, energy, and time to work with. Goals will help you make the most of the resources you have.

Once your goals have been set, start an aggressive research campaign to learn which existing hostas will be most likely to produce the wanted results. Collecting a gene pool of hostas to work with is essential. Obtaining some of those plants may take time and money, but they will likely save you many years of work in the long run.

Hybridizing is a Long-Term Project

Hybridizing hostas is not a hasty endeavor. You will probably not end up with a perfect finished product in just one step, although luck sometimes surprises us when we least expect it. Reaching your goal will likely involve generations upon generations of crosses, but each cross will get you a little closer to achieving it. Persistence pays off!



With a goal sketched out in your mind, by now you have carefully considered which hostas you can use as parents to reach that goal. Look at those which you have to work with and choose a few that have the characteristics you desire to see in your new creation. Select these to cross pollinate first. By the term “cross pollinate,” we are talking about transferring pollen from one plant onto the stigma of another. Don’t worry – we will illustrate how to make a cross in the next edition of the eNewsletter.

Hosta Fertility

Some hostas are more fertile than others. Therefore, before we choose which ones to use in our hybridizing program, it is advantageous to know what cultivars are infertile. While it would be nice to be able to cross any two plants in our garden to produce seed, that sometimes will not work when it comes to world of hostas. Some varieties are simply infertile.

By the term “infertile,” we are referring to hostas which are unable to produce living offspring. The term “sterile” is often used as well, which means without life. For example, pollen sometimes is sterile.

The fact that some hosta cultivars are infertile means that unfortunately we are not always able make a successful cross if they are used. *Hosta* ‘Krossa Regal’, for in-

stance, almost never produces a seed pod, and in the rare case when a pod is formed, the seed inside generally is unable to germinate and grow. We say that the seed is “non-viable.” Therefore, ‘Krossa Regal’ is not a good option to use as the pod parent (the parent which produces the seed).

There are various causes for infertility. A hosta may be infertile, for example, both as a pod and pollen parent. On the other hand, some cultivars may set viable seed, but the pollen will not be viable. The pollen is no good. Or, the opposite can be true: a hosta can produce good pollen, but will not set seed (as with ‘Krossa Regal’).

To make things even more confusing, some varieties are just very picky with what they will cross with. But if you are determined and patient, you may eventually be successful in getting good seed from a particular hosta which does not usually set seed.

A word of encouragement: if you are trying to make a certain cross, don’t give up! As Josh Spece says, “Determining what hosta cultivars are fertile in what ways and in what combinations requires a little observation and a lot of trial and error.”

There are two resources that have information about whether or not a hosta is fertile. The first is the Hosta Treasury which includes a description of all cultivars which are registered. Go to <https://www.hostaregistrar.org/> and use the search function to find the specific hosta you are wanting information for. Then read the information under the subheading “Seed.”

<p>H. ‘Clear Fork River Valley’ V. Wade (ONIR) Plant: 56 in. (142.2 cm) diameter; 30 in. (76.2 cm) high; mound-like. Leaf: 11 in. (27.9 cm) long; 11 in. (27.9 cm) wide; 15 to 18 vein prs.; intensely dark blue-green; glaucous bloom above and underneath; nearly round; cordate base; lightly cupped, lightly wavy, intensely corrugated. Scape: 26 to 31 in. (66 to 78.7 cm) long; green. Flower: 2.25 in. (5.7 cm) long; pure white; tubular; Bellville, OH; 6/25-7/08-7/11. Seed: sets viable seeds; green seed pods. Clump History: orig. seedling; 5 yrs old; Bellville, OH. Notable Characteristics: nearly round, very deep blue-green, very puckered between veins, puckers are highly humped. [H. ‘Puckered Giant’ × H. ‘Woodland Blue’]</p>

The other resource that will be helpful is the list of Sterile Hostas which is included on the Hosta Lists website at <http://www.hostalists.org/>. This list is divided into two parts: hostas which are completely sterile, and those which are very reluctant to set seed.

Sterile Hostas

Some hostas are completely pod sterile. Others are reluctant pod producers, and only a small percentage of the few seeds which are produced may be viable. In a few cases, a plant may be pod sterile but still able to produce some viable pollen. The following is a list of species and cultivars which have been reported to be completely, or nearly, pod and/or pollen sterile.

Completely, or Nearly, Pod Sterile:

'Academy Beech Leaf Stack'	'Dew Drop'	'Kayleigh's Sunshine'	'Polished Emeralds'
'Academy Halo Standard'	'Diamond Jubilee'	'Kiss to Remember'	'Porcelain'
'Academy Purple Orb'	'Dinky Donna'	'Krossa Dressa'	'Porcelain Vase'
'Academy Subtle Sally'	'Dress Whites'	'Krossa Regal'	'Pot Black'
'Amazone'	'Dutch Flame'	(does produce some viable pollen)	'Praying Hands'
'Anna the Stripper'	'Eagle Lake Overlook'	'La Donna'	'Precious'
'Annabel Lee'	'Eco Mirror'	'Lakeside Cha Cha'	'Proud Mary'
'Aphrodite'	'Embroidery'	'Lakeside Iron Man'	'Pure Intentions'
'Applique'	'Ems Pfeil'	(pod sterile; pollen viable)	'Purple Lady Finger'
'Aquamarine'	'Enchiladas'	'Like a Blue Streak'	'Rain Forest Shooting Stars'
'Arctic Circle'	'Eros'	'Little Blue'	'Raleigh Remembrance'
'Athena'	'Erotica'	'Little Hobber'	'Red-eye Café'
'Audrey's Island'	'Euphoria'	'Little Razor'	'Redneck Mardi Gras'
'Autumn Fire'	'Fair Maiden'	'Love Me Tender'	'Regal Chameleon'
'Baby Bunting'	'Fairrest Maiden'	'Lovely Loretta'	'Regal Heir'
'Bachelor Party'	'For Your Eyes Only'	'Magic Island'	'Regal Promenade'
'Baiyu'	'Fountainhead'	'Mañana'	'Regal Providence'
'Banana Kid'	'Fox Lake'	'Marbled Bouquet'	'Regal Splash'
'Banana Pepper'	'Foxfire Viper'	'Marlu's Marla Jean'	'Regal Splendor'
'Beach Boy'	'Friends Forever'	'Maurice Mason'	'Regal Twist'
'Bella Noche'	'Fujibotan'	'Meant to Be'	'Regalia' (rarely produces viable seed)
'Biting Rosebud'	'Gaga'	'Megan'	'Richland Gold'
'Blitz'	'Game Boy'	'Michael S. Flaherty'	'Richland Gold Splash'
'Blue Cadet Edina'	'Gay Search'	'Midas Mouse'	'Richland Gold's Moonlight'
'Blue Tooth'	'Ginba'	'Middle Ridge'	'Richland Gold's Moonlight's Child'
'Bohemia Praying Clown'	'Glossy Ruffles'	'Midnight Oil'	'Richland Riot'
'Border Patrol'	'Gold Standard'	'Ming Treasure'	'Rix Pix'
'Brianna T.'	'Grape Fizz'	'Mini Skirt'	'Rock 'n' Roll Heart'

A list of Sterile Hostas is posted on the Hosta Lists website at www.hostalists.org

In the Next Issue...

Now we are getting down to the exciting part of hybridizing: actually making the cross. In the next issue of the *Hybridizer Corner*, we will look at how to pollinate a hosta flower. But before we can actually do any hybridizing, we will need to know a little about the hosta flower and how it works. We will take a look at the pistil and the stamens. We will discuss how to prepare a flower to prevent unwanted pollination, and the methods used for transferring the pollen from one flower to another, including what tools work best to do so. **Get ready, because here we go!**



Calling All JUDGES

The past few years have been a real challenge for everyone, including the American Hosta Society. One particular area of concern is that the number of accredited Hosta Shows has dropped dramatically. As a direct result, opportunities for fulfilling judging requirements as well as the number of available training clinics has suffered greatly. In addition, almost half of our AHS judges have not been sending in their Record of Activity as required and have ignored repeated requests from the Judges Records Chair for updated information.

This is fast becoming an area of deep concern and we need to take all necessary steps to rectify this as soon as possible!

Without AHS Judges, there cannot be Hosta Shows: without Hosta Shows and Judges Clinics, there cannot be AHS Judges.

The American Hosta Society is a non-profit **EDUCATIONAL** organization, and the accredited hosta show is an important part of the educational aspect of our wonderful society and needs to be protected and nurtured. We need our Hosta Shows and we need our Judges so let's work together to turn this around.

If you have been submitting your activity reports as required, **THANK YOU**, and keep up the good work! If you have not been, please take the time to do so immediately. We beg of you to get in contact with Sandra Bussell, our Judges Record Keeper, and let her know you want to continue to serve as an AHS Judge, verify your most recent contact information and let her know if you have any activities to report for the past three years. If you have not had local opportunities to maintain your status or elevate your status, let us know how we can work together to create those opportunities. The next comprehensive Judges List will only include those who contact us and let us know that you wish to continue to serve.

During the next 6 months the Judging Unit will be focusing on:

- working with local societies to host more hosta shows
- verifying all judges information and desire to continue to serve
- increasing educational opportunities for all judges
- better communication
- strengthening the entire Judging unit
- reviewing necessary updates to the Judges Handbook

Please remember that **ALL AHS** Judges are also expected to vote annually for the Benedict Garden Performance Plan Award. The 2023 Ballot was included in the Spring 2023 issue of the Hosta Journal. Please look it over and remember to observe nominated specimens during this garden season. We are asking if you could please submit your ballots before October 1, 2023, so that we can begin the tabulation process as quickly as possible. If you need a new copy, please let us know as soon as you can. The success of this program is dependent on your participation.

Remember... *without AHS Judges, there cannot be Hosta Shows: without Hosta Shows and Judges Clinics, there cannot be AHS Judges. Period.*

We do not want to lose a single judge and we are here to help!! We look forward to hearing from you!

Respectfully Yours,

Kathie Sisson
Chuck Zdeb
Sandra Bussell
Sarah DaPra
Micheal Greanya

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ashwoods@aol.com
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H. 'Sharp Dressed Man'
Solberg 2005
(Photo by Mary Vertz)

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- Receive two print issues per year of our popular publication, *The Hosta Journal*. This 84-page publication is filled with color photos and current information regarding hostas.
- Receive a copy of *The Hosta Adventure, Third Edition – A Growers Guide* and the *Hosta of the Year* booklet, both filled with color photographs and a wealth of information.
- Receive access to the members-only section of the website to read our *Online Hosta Journal* and access other publications and our member directory.
- Attend national and regional meetings where specialty vendors offer the most recently introduced hostas and companion plants and where a live auction offers rare and distinctive hostas and other garden items.
- Enjoy garden tours open only to AHS members.
- Exhibit your favorite hostas and compete for recognition in various AHS national and regional cut-leaf shows.
- Vote on the most popular hostas with our popularity poll.
- Enjoy the camaraderie of fellow *Hosta* enthusiasts.

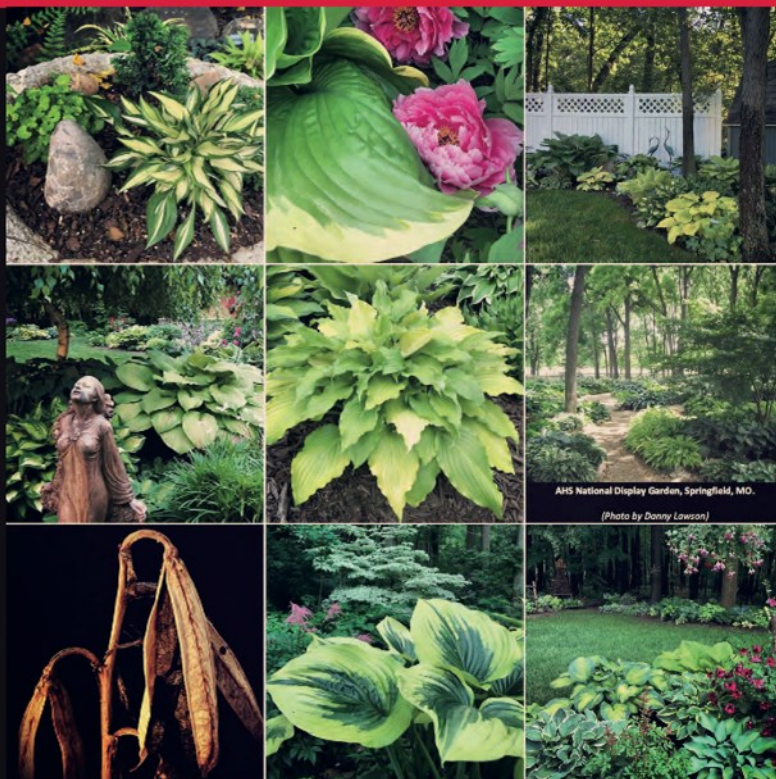
For more information or to join go to hosta.org or call 309-678-4119.

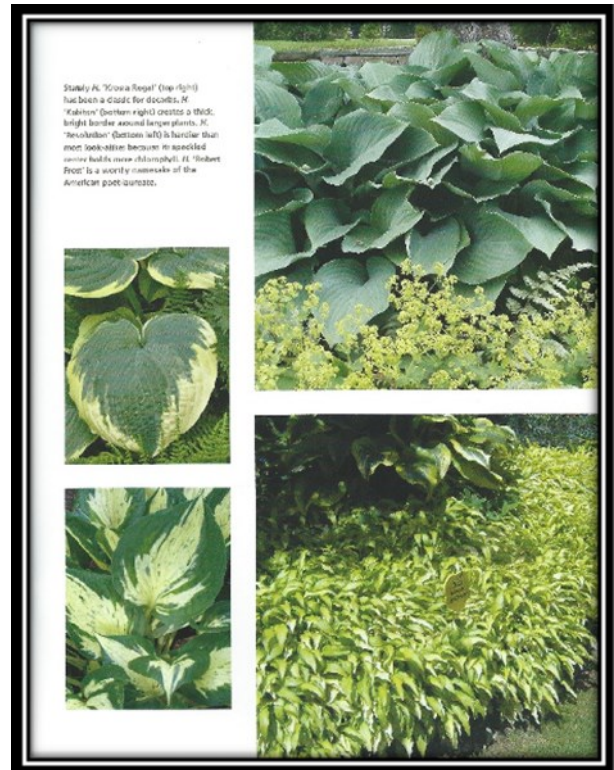
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The Hosta Adventure is filled with stunning photos of hostas and hosta gardens.

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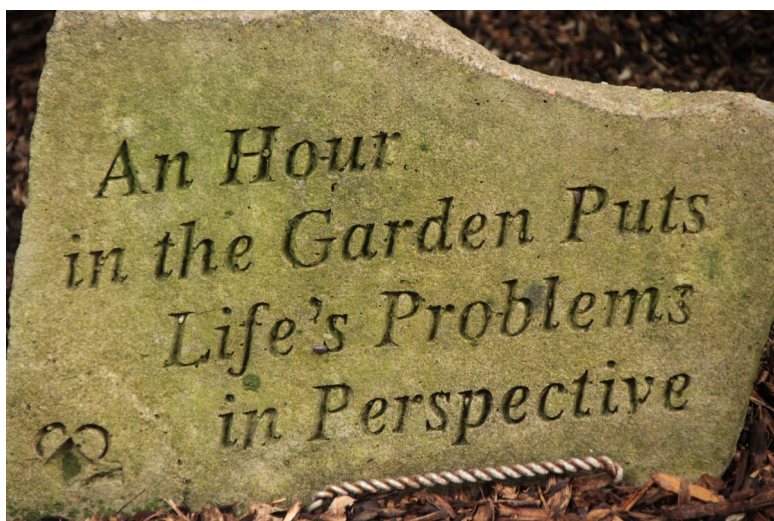
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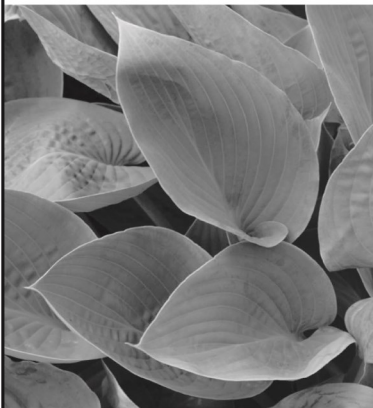
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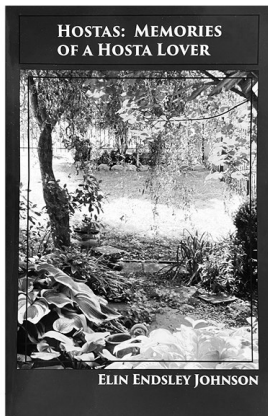
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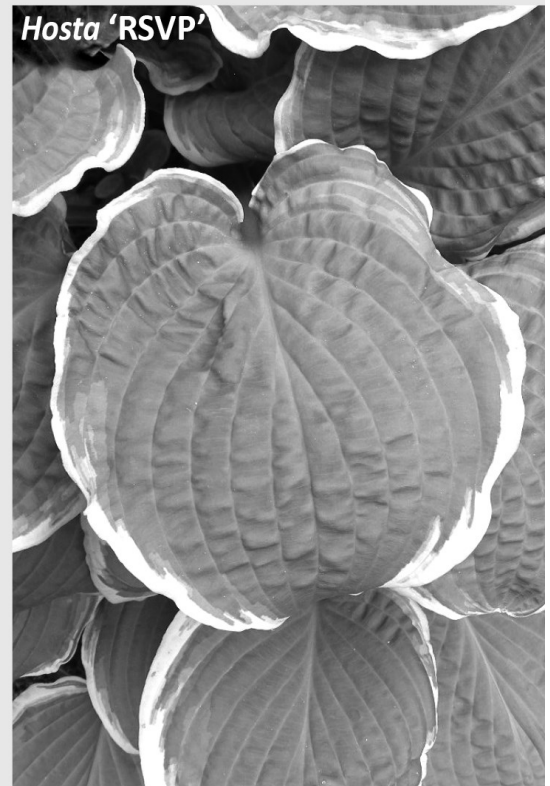
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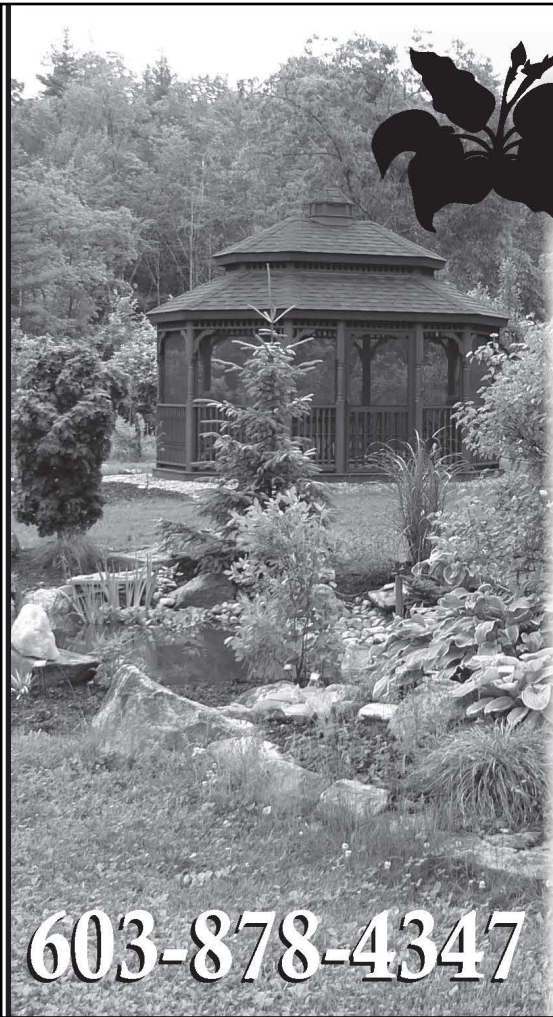
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