



The American Hosta Society

Oct 2024

eNewsletter



***H.* 'Bridal Falls'**

J. van den Top 2012

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President's Message

Amy Peterson, Oakdale, MN

PLANNING - on two fronts as fall approaches.

Garden winter planning and prep includes last minute weeding, a major task this year as a warm and wet summer has encouraged both lush hosta growth and WEEDS too. Strong winds a week or so ago and with the wet soil, a large tree tipped that now needs removal. With a lot to do, it was time to ask sons for some help as well as a tree removal service. This tree 's removal will have little impact on shading the garden but will save having fence repair if it comes down in an uncontrolled fashion.

Planning on the personal side, I'm giving serious consideration to downsizing; meaning selling the single-family home in the next few years. So now I need to also consider what to do with my hostas which are many and some are unique after being a collector for multiple decades. While having a large bed garden mostly filled with hostas has been my passion, new homeowners when I sell, likely won't want all the work and could just mow them down. Ugh! Options include having a hosta sale, donating the hostas to my local society or an AHS sale. I've even considered donating them to my city to establish a public garden. If I move, I would like to bring some hostas with, but when you're limited to a patio or balcony, your also limited on the number and size of hostas one can take. My plans are to go vertical, a new trend in gardening. The primary limiting factor for me is I love BIG hostas and the vertical gardens are too small. So I'll be limited to medium, small & mini hostas. On the plus side, I will be able to keep more hostas with me when I move.

I became aware of vertical gardening as an off shoot of looking more into recyclable pots, after hearing the lecture at the 2024 AHS convention. The picture below is my vertical planter, not yet planted but will hold 25 plants and in my blue garden accent color. I hope to talk more on recyclable/biodegradable pots in the future. But the plastic pot industry is a \$4.4 billion dollar industry and the black pots we get when buying plants typically can't be recycled with your local trash collections and very few box stores take them back. The plastics used are cheap and easy to manufacture into a variety of shapes, hence good business. But there is a growing body of information on plastic particles being found from environmental sources in multiple human body parts and suspicion of health issues from these particles. Lack of recyclability & health concerns are encouraging efforts to look at alternatives to plastic pots such as fabric, coco fiber, paper fiber-based pots as well as alternate plastics that are biodegradable.

As enthusiastic gardeners with concerns on viruses, fungus, deer, rabbit, snails, & jumping worms, a broader concern should now include the recyclable nature of plastic garden pots. If your society hosts a plant sale, consider using something other than the traditional black plastic pots. Change needs to start somewhere so why not by hostaholics!

Amy Peterson





Hostas and Associates

Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI

Glory-of-the-Snow is a Great Hosta Companion

Photos by Glenn Herold

Hosta gardeners know the value of bulbs that bloom in early spring and then die down as the hostas emerge. One of my favorites is *Chionodoxa luciliae*, a spring-flowering bulb commonly known as Glory-of-the-Snow. The plant name has an interesting connection to plant explorer Pierre Edmond Boissier (1810-1885), a Swiss botanist and mathematician. The specific epithet *luciliae* is in honor of Lucile Boissier (1822-1849), whose husband Pierre discovered and named the plant. Lucile married Pierre in 1840 and travelled with her husband to the Orient, Middle East, and North Africa in search of new plants. While on a trip to Spain and Algeria, she contracted an infectious disease and died in 1849 at the young age of 27.

Pierre Boissier was one of the most prolific plant collectors of the 19th century and produced several important publications. In his first series of books, published between 1842 and 1859 and known simply as his '*Diagnoses*', he described 3336 species. Later, in 1867, he published *Flora Orientalis*, which contained the descriptions of 11,681 species. Many of these plants were previously unknown to the Western world. It was on one of his expeditions to Western Turkey that he discovered Glory-of-the-Snow. The generic name, *Chionodoxa*, is from the Greek and means Snow Glory, referring to the fact that it often blooms while there is still snow on the ground.

Chionodoxa luciliae is easily grown in full sun or part shade. It can even be grown under the shade of trees, because it emerges, blooms, sets seed, and dies down all before the trees are fully leafed out. Bloom time is usually March into April. The flowers are a lilac blue with a white center. Plant height is about six inches. *Chionodoxa* naturalizes easily by bulb offsets and seed, and will eventually form a large colony. Foliage begins to fade shortly after bloom and generally disappears by late spring. The bulb will then remain dormant below ground until the following spring.

Though I prefer the flower colors of the species, white flowering plants called 'Alba' and a pink flowered variety named 'Rosea' are available. Variety *gigantea* has flowers that are larger than the species. 'Blue Giant,' 'Pink Giant,' and 'White Giant' are forms of this group.

Plant dormant bulbs in fall on a well drained site to a depth of about three inches. The more you start with, the quicker the colony will develop. Start with at least 50 bulbs, preferably 100 or more, spaced six to twelve inches apart for best effect. Plant



Chionodoxa luciliae (Glory-of-the-Snow)

then between your hostas and they will soon form drifts in your shade garden. As the hostas emerge, the leaves will cover the bulb foliage, which by then will likely have seeds that replaced the flowers. They will self-sow and spread, but if you wish to slow their advance, just clip off or pull the seed stalks. This also helps to clean up the area before the plant is covered by hosta foliage or dies down. Another interesting effect is obtained by planting the bulbs directly into your lawn. By the time your lawn needs mowing, the bulb foliage has begun to die down. In case it persists into the mowing season, raise your mowing height for the first few cuttings so the foliage maximizes the amount of food that it produces and stores in the bulb. Though I did not plant bulbs into my lawn, they are starting to show up, and I welcome their appearance. Could squirrels have possibly sown the seed? Mother Nature has her ways.

Glory-of-the-Snow is only one of the many bulb species that bloom early and die down shortly after bloom. Others include Winter Aconite (*Eranthis*), Striped Squill (*Puschkinia*), Snowdrop (*Galanthus*), and Crocus. All can be used throughout the landscape in drifts or large colonies to get you excited about spring. We are fortunate that adventuresome people such as Pierre Boissier and his wife Lucile had the foresight to discover and make these plants available to us.

Additional articles about plants can be found on my blog:
<https://thecottagegardener53012.wordpress.com>



Chionodoxa forbesii



Chionodoxa forbesii flowers



GO HOSTAS!

Warren I. Pollock, Glen Mills, PA

Following is a reprint of Warren's *Go Hosta* column from the Oct 2021 eNewsletter

OVERWINTERING HOSTAS IN CONTAINERS

In the July 2021 eNewsletter I announced that the October issue will be devoted to overwintering hostas growing in containers. I mentioned I am collecting readers' experiences and requested contributions.

The first article below is my unusual method of overwintering containerized hostas, some quite large, on my balcony. I call it the "On-site Overwintering Method" I don't think it is used by anyone else. (Let me know, please: giboshiwip@aol.com.)

I initiated my "On-Site Method" about five years ago and I have had 100% success with it. It gets freezing cold in the winter where I live, sometimes for over a week. Though there often is repetitive freezing and thawing, I've never observed any root damage. This could be due to root systems of the hostas in the containers are well established.

My methodology is then followed by contributions from readers to the July request. For their responses, I want to thank Cornelia B. Holland, Franklin, Tennessee; Cozart Smith, Decatur, Georgia; George R. Kruer, Milton, Delaware; Harold W. McDonell, Fayetteville, Georgia (editor of *Georgia Hosta Society Notes* [newsletter]); June Colley and John Baker, Hampshire, England (principals in *British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society*); and Larry Tucker, Memphis, Tennessee (author of "Hosta la Vista" column in *The Hosta Journal*).

Hostas in a bowl on Warren's patio. Leaves spread 21" across and are 8" high



H. 'Sun Mouse' (T. Avent - NR) PP30033

H. 'Mini Skirt' (Walters Gardens - 2013) PP26743

On-Site Method of Overwintering Hostas in Containers

by Warren I. Pollock

For some twenty years I had an extensive hosta garden in Wilmington, Delaware. In June 2000 I moved into a retirement community in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania, about 10 miles northeast towards Philadelphia. It is a third-floor apartment with no gardening land associated with it. But it has a south facing concrete balcony about nine feet by twelve feet.

For the first couple of years, the balcony only had wrought iron furniture. I was not satisfied with this! I wanted an aesthetic venue with some huge hostas in containers. But I realized I had no garage facility for overwintering containers as I had done each winter in my Wilmington residence. Specifically for overwintering hostas in containers, I built a multi-level network of shelves in the back of my garage. Over 500 hosta containers were stored in my garage each winter.

My investigation led to development of what I call the On-Site Overwintering Method. It involves no moving of hostas in containers into special sheltered conditions. In other words, what's on my balcony in spring, summer and fall is overwintered in their same sites on my balcony in winter. For the most part,



H. "Touch of Class"

Photo by Warren Pollock

an easy inexpensive adjustment is made to the containers to be eligible for the On-Site Method.



Spring

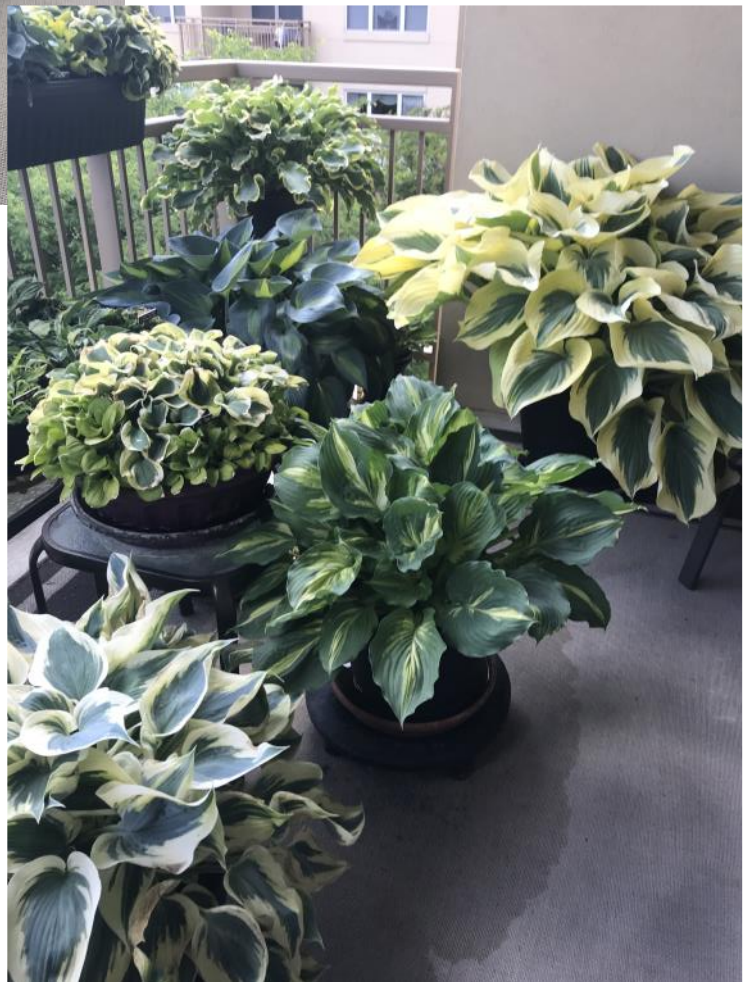
This is what my balcony looked like in spring, summer and fall 2021

H. 'Liberty' is over 4 1/2 feet across! (By the way, all my containers are black plastic, and all are sitting on saucers.) *H.* 'Liberty' is in a 16-inch container. It is nearly 5 feet across. I cannot lift it. It sits outside all year.

H. 'Whee!' in the corner of the railing is more than three feet in diameter.

H. 'Lakeside Paisley Print' also is over three feet in diameter.

H. 'Blue Ivory', in lower left, also is three feet in diameter.



Summer



Fall

Hostas not seen in the group photos are large clumps of *H.* 'Rainbow's End', 'First Frost', 'Touch of Class' (two big pots), 'Exotica' (my favorite 'Striptease' sport), and 'Gunther's Pride'.

What is the overwintering troublemaker? Probably to many folks' surprise, almost certainly it is not excessively cold air temperature. Glenn Herold, AHS's new Vice President Genus *Hosta*, in email correspondence to me emphasized that air temperature isn't really that important; it's what the ground temperature is. Most roots of temperate plants can tolerate about *15 degrees Fahrenheit*.

The bad winter actor is *WATER: liquid H₂O*. It's not snow nor ice, but it could be melted snow or ice. Furthermore, it is water that would be in the container. The bottom line: In winter, you do **not** want water in contact with frozen root mass for a considerable length of time. The key words are *water in contact with frozen root mass*. That water may come from a snowfall and the snow melted, or maybe from a winter shower. This unwanted condition can result in the root mass becoming mushy-like and dying.

Many of our hosta containers intentionally have big gaps between the top of the rims and potting soil levels. Often, they are there because it makes overhead watering of containers easier. You fill the gap with water, and it seeps into the root mass underneath, saturating the soil beneath.

If this gap has water in it, say from a late winter rain -- *and remains in contact with frozen root mass for some length of time*, what you'll likely find in spring is that the root mass has become a mush-like consistency and the hosta is dead. If not dead, it likely won't recover.

So, what is occurring in overwintering hostas in containers in garages and shelters? Simply, the hostas are not being snowed or rained on. The On-Site Overwintering Method is just conditioning the containers, so no water is in contact with frozen root mass. And this is simply done with extensive mulching.

I use black shredded wood mulch because it's available in handy plastic bags in garden supply stores, and thus convenient and easy for me to handle. But technically any mulch will do.

I stuff the container's contents with mulch up to the rim and beyond. I am not skimpy with mulch. I do not remove the mulch in spring -- unless I want to assess if pips (divisions) have developed.

Accompanying this item are two specially constructed photos. One is labeled "No! No!" The other is labeled "Yes! Yes!"

"No! No!" shows a hosta container with a big void gap. This is not the type of container suitable for the On-Site Overwinter Method. Water can collect in the void space.





"Yes! Yes!" is heavily mulched. This type of container is ideal for the On-site Overwinter Method. All containers in the On-Site Overwinter Method are heavily mulched; no void spaces for water to collect in, especially in winter.

If you overwinter any of your hostas in containers next winter adopting the On-Site Overwintering Method, please share your experiences. I would like a follow-up article in the AHS *eNewsletter* in 2022. My email address is giboshiwip@aol.com. Thanks.

(Editor's note: since this is a reprint from Oct 2021, Warren is no longer looking for information for a follow-up article. But I'm sure Warren would be happy to hear from fellow hosta-a-holics that have used his On-Site Overwintering Method for their containers.)



And from the Mailroom...

From Cornelia Holland:

I live in middle Tennessee and have been growing hostas in pots since the late 1900s when I learned that planting under maple trees was not feasible. As my collection has grown, the use of pots has provided for “vertical gardening” when there was no room in the ground. I now have between 350 and 400 hostas in pots and the growing season can be as long as late February until early November.

General suggestions for growing in containers...

Selection of Containers...

There are many types of shapes and materials to choose from, each having various attributes, which include: weight, durability, amount of heat held, and drainage.

Concrete, plastic, terra cotta and other materials hold heat in various degrees and some that are in higher levels of sun may required more watering

Plastic decorative pots are generally cheap but eventually crack from exposure to heat and cold but are easier to move throughout the garden. Plastic nursery pots work well and are more durable.

I have found that terra cotta pots may crack and craze after a few years of exposure to the elements. Therefore, I generally choose to only buy “made in Vietnam” pots with thick walls and glazing that goes over the lip and into the pot. (Some Vietnamese pots have recently appeared on the market with very thin walls and are not suitable for outside growing.)

Pots with curved sides are interesting, but if the hosta becomes root bound it will be difficult to remove without breaking the pot.

Always examine the pot for cracks, especially in the drainage hole(s).

Make sure the hole is a sizeable one.

Start the planting process by placing a screen over the drainage hole to keep debris from blocking the hole. I also place the pots on tiles and bricks to facilitate drainage and keep tree roots from growing into the pots. Always check your pots after heavy rains to make sure water is not holding in the pots.

I use the same potting soil for all the pots and do not use any mixture with moisture retention. To reduce the weight of tall containers and the amount of potting soil, you may add drink cans or plastic bottle to take up some of the space.

Plant hosta crowns about one inch below the rim of the pots.

If snails/slugs are a problem, a 20% solution of unscented household ammonia can be used to spray the hosta crowns. Also spray into the drainage holes and under the tiles/bricks.

A few of my pots have drip irrigation, but most are watered by an overhead system. In time of high summer heat, the pots in the hotter areas of the garden will have to be individually watered if they start to show signs of stress.

Winter advise...

In preparation for winter, make sure the soil in the pots is up to the glazing line.

Repot or divide the hosta no later than one month before the first freeze so they can acclimate.

If a hosta is in a nursery pot, and is root bound, transfer to a larger pot to provide insulation from the potting media.

After heavy rains, check the pots to see if any are retaining water due to blocked drainage holes. Turn any of these pots on their sides for a temporary fix.



From Cozart Smith:

Overwintering Hostas in Containers: A Southern Strategy

My friends in northern climates use a variety of methods to overwinter their containerized hostas. Some bury the pots outside; some move pots to an unheated space such as a shed or garage; and some cluster the pots together away from the wind and cover them with mulch.

No matter where you live, the winter is a balancing act between giving hostas a six-week cold, dormant period while protecting them from repetitive freezing and thawing that damages their roots.

In the South, our shorter, milder winter seasons present additional challenges, but I have had success with my strategy for overwintering my containerized hostas.

My collection consists of hundreds of varieties that are all grown in containers. Most are displayed on large wooden benches, and I use shade cloth to protect them from the sun during the spring and summer months. During the winter, I drape plastic tarps over the shade cloth and secure it on the sides, creating a roof to shed precipitation.

This technique requires continued watering responsibilities throughout the winter, but it allows me to control the amount of moisture in the soil. This significantly reduces the risk of root rot. To date, every hosta in my collection has survived the winter and emerged in the spring.

I live in zone 7, near Atlanta, Georgia, and some varieties emerge in late February when we experience occasional periods of spring-like weather. Since there is still a risk of intermittent low temperatures, I use frost cloth to protect leaves that have unfurled on any early emergers.

Southern gardeners love hostas, and I hope everyone finds a winter strategy that works well for them!



From George R. Kruer :

Hostas in Pots :

When we moved into this two-acre property in Delaware in 2001, I started planting hostas in the ground. All went well for several years and many of the hostas had grown into large clumps. Then I had an explosion of voles and many of the clumps were decimated. I tried all of the usual precautions and preventative measures, but nothing worked so I started moving what plants that were left into pots, mostly plastic.

This did not work well as the voles gnawed through the bottom of the plastic pots. I put hardware cloth in the bottom of the pots and two or so inches up the side. This worked, but the cloth was hard to work with and fashion to fit the round bottoms. I also put gravel in the bottom, but this made the larger pots too heavy. Also, it was messy with the gravel getting mixed up in the soil when repotting.

For some reason it occurred to me to try elevating the pots since I knew the voles did not like to stay exposed outside the ground. I cut squares from 2x6, 2x8, and 2x10 treated lumber and sat the pots on the squares. Lo and behold, it worked. I have a hundred plus hosta in all sizes of pots and after several years of elevating them on the squares I have never had the voles gnaw a hole in a pot.

That is how I arrived at where I am now. There are a number of observations I can make about my having to grow my hostas in pots.

Buying the nicer looking non-utility pots can get expensive.

I tried the castor oil approach, really saturating the ground, but it did not deter the voles. With most of my plants in pots, the vole population seems to have gone down considerably.

At first, each winter I moved all the pots up to around the house for some added warmth, but after time I found this was not necessary. The moderate Delaware climate did not require it. I leave them in the yard

and my over winter loss is very minor. One thing that may help in this regard, is that if the plastic pots do not have holes in the side, I drill three 1/2 to 3/4 in holes in the side of the pot for extra drainage. The bottom holes on the wood squares did not seem to provide enough drainage.

For larger pots, I fill the bottom 1/3 to 1/2 with pine bark nuggets for drainage and to lighten them.

I miss having the large clumps that you get over time when growing spreading hostas in the ground. This can be partly overcome by being able to stage hostas in pots. You, Warren, have stressed this and I find it very useful. I move my hostas around quite a bit to achieve different effects and to alleviate crowding.

A major drawback to growing hostas in pots is simply that every few years you need to repot them. This can be quite a chore for the bigger ones. For these, I often just dump them out of the pot; cut 3 to 4 slices off the outside of the plant; and repot the original center portion. This gives you several new plants to start over with.

All in all, I would prefer to grow my hostas in the ground, but the ability to stage them in pots is a definite plus.



From Harold McDonell :

Overwintering Hostas in Containers in the South:

I live in the Atlanta, Georgia area about 30 miles south of downtown Atlanta. In my mild climate (USDA Zone 8-a), I find it quite easy to grow and overwinter hostas in containers. In fact, it is actually easier growing and overwintering them in containers than growing them in the ground where they must fight tree root competition and voles. Also, my mild climate means I can leave the containers in place in the garden without any additional winter protection. No back-breaking relocation of my container hostas to the garage in winter for me!

Even though my climate is mild, I do have to be mindful that temps can dip to 15 degrees *F* or even lower at times, so I have to take some care in selecting the type of containers I use. I seldom use clay pots, not only because they tend to dry out so fast, but also because they can be extremely sensitive to freezing temperatures. They can and do easily break under the cold stress. I use a lot of ceramic containers but they, too, can falter under the increased pressures of freezing moisture in the potting soil and in the pores of the unglazed insides of the pot. To minimize this, I first choose my ceramic containers carefully. Some are much more resistant to cold damage than others. I have found that the heavy thick-rimmed pots made in Vietnam are some of the best and can often be obtained at very reasonable prices at Ollie's or similar stores.

Before I use ceramic containers for the first time, I spray all the unglazed interior surfaces as well as the outside bottoms with a couple of coats of clear FLEX SEAL® or similar liquid rubber sealant products to keep the pots from absorbing moisture in the pores. This not only reduces the chance of pots cracking but also reduces scaling and flaking of the glazed surfaces from freeze stresses. Every time I reuse a ceramic pot, I treat it again. In addition, I try to find black plastic containers that can be used as inserts in the ceramic pots to keep the moist soil from directly contacting the sides of the container. Even if I use a plastic insert when planting a ceramic container, I still treat the pot with the sealant.

I have found plastic and composite containers to be the most winter resistant of all. I am using them more and more, not only for their winter resilience, but also because they are much lighter in weight and easier to move around and repot as needed, especially the larger pots. Many of the high-end composite containers really look great and hold up quite well for many years. Keep in mind when purchasing plastic and composite containers, though, that you get what you pay for. The cheaper ones never hold up as well in appearance or durability as do the more expensive ones. I have noticed with these types of containers that the drainage holes are often inadequate. Good drainage is critical for growing hostas in containers, especially in the winter. If the drainage holes are too small for proper drainage, don't hesitate to drill more and bigger holes. Also, place all containers on bricks or tiles away from direct contact with the soil to deter voles and tree roots from going into the pot from the bottom.

Speaking of plastic, don't overlook the value of the old standard black plastic nursery pots. They are dirt cheap compared to ceramic or composite decorative containers and they often have numerous large side holes that provide for excellent drainage. They are also pretty much impervious to winter damage. Some have exterior designs to improve their looks and the larger ones often have hand grips that makes them easier to maneuver. Even the plain ones should be considered for use in display gardens when they can be tucked behind other more decorative pots or when other in-ground plants can hide the container. As I mentioned before, I also use them as inserts in ceramic pots when I can find ones that fit well into the outer containers.

I think the selection of the potting soil is one of the most important considerations when thinking about how best to overwinter hostas. Potted hostas do not tolerate dense, poorly draining soil that keeps excessive moisture around the crowns of the plant. This is particularly critical during the cold winter when the pots may freeze, then trap subsequent rain or melting snow water around the crown area. If you ask which potting soil is the best to use, you will probably get as many different answers as the number of people you ask. My personal experience over time says

lighter is always better. I use only a coarse potting medium that contains at least 50 % pine bark and plenty of perlite, both of which insure faster drainage and longer lasting soil life. Even as the pine bark and other organic components of the mix such as peat moss do break down and become denser over time, the inorganic perlite insures continued good drainage and soil oxygen retention. A fast-draining medium also reduces winter stress to the containers due to less moisture being trapped and expanding during freezing. When planting miniature hostas in containers, I also add flint or granite chicken grit to the mix for even better drainage. I have found the mini's to be the most difficult to overwinter in pots. The grit seems to substantially improve the odds of winter survival.

Even when using the very best potting soil, keep in mind that it is primarily organic and will not last forever. The older it gets, the denser it becomes. With the high-quality soil I use, I can usually go five to seven years before the mix breaks down to the point that repotting is required. I watch the soil level in the pot. When the soil sinks over an inch to 1 1/2 inches in a medium-sized pot, I know it is time to repot the hosta and replenish the soil. I never just add more soil to the pot. That results in the crown being too deep which is never good for the health of the plant and that will cause the hosta to be more susceptible to winter kill.

Since I dabble in hosta hybridizing, I always have hundreds of hostas overwintering in pots of various sizes ranging from three inches to well over 12 inches in diameter. I seldom lose hostas over the winter and when I do, it is usually because I have not followed my own advice as stated above. I also have to remind myself throughout the year, but especially in the winter, to check regularly to ensure that no container's potting soil has deteriorated too much and that no drainage holes have become blocked. I firmly believe good drainage is the key to successfully overwintering hostas in containers.



From June Colley and John Baker:

2000 Plus Hostas in Containers: Overwintering in the UK

Winter Care for Potted Hostas

We water the plants well in late autumn before they go dormant and remove any saucers under the pot long before the expected first frost.

We then store the pots in a somewhat protected area (along the side of the house, etc.) covered with a layer of mulch. We use fallen oak leaves because it is plentiful and the tannin in oak helps deter slugs and snails for pots stored outside.

Dead bracken (wild fern) is also a useful alternative and the saponin in the bracken also helps deter slugs and snails. We have also tried cocoa bean shells which are coarse and sharp but are rather expensive and the chocolate aroma lingers. During a very harsh winter the roots close to the side of the pots may get damaged as some would have started to grow in the alternating mild and cold weather experienced here in the UK. Another option is to bring the pots into an unheated summerhouse after they have gone dormant. This is a procedure we follow with some of the VIP minis and small hostas so that they suffer minimal losses or damage even in the harshest winter.

Another method we use to protect small hostas is to grow these in small pots which we embed into slightly larger pots. We then fill the gap between the two pots with a soil-grit-fine bark mixture. We have found this to be a highly effective way of protecting the fine roots of delicate small and miniature hostas with hardly any losses in the worst winters. This is extra work, but it helps protect your rare and precious minis.



Hostas will require very little extra moisture during the winter once the leaves have gone down. We spray occasionally with water without completely soaking the pots but not if the pots are frozen. If you have watered the pots well before the first freeze, it may not require any extra watering. Just check occasionally to ensure the pot is not completely dry especially during the gradual warming up period.

Check routinely for pots that have heaved and cover these with new soil and alpine grit/gravel mixture (50-50), or with pine needles. Slugs and snails don't like pine needles while moist bark tend to attract them. Hostas which we placed under pine canopies that shed their sharp needles regularly, definitely suffer less from slug and snail damage and seldom require treatment with molluscicides.



We have a lot of minis still thriving after many years in pots. One of these is 'Blue Mouse Ears' which is now approaching 18 years old. We also have old large classics like 'Fortunei Albopicta' and several 'Undulata' plants now 31 years old and still growing in pots. Large clumps of 17-year-old 'Gold Standard', 'Sagae' and 'Guardian Angel' in pots are amongst our favourites.

Whatever you do, do not try to overwinter hostas as houseplants. We experimented out of curiosity using a few hostas and the result was disastrous. Hostas need a cold, dormant period (six weeks below 5°C or 41°F).

Natural Habitats

The majority of species come from where the temperatures fall close to zero or below zero in winter. In their northern natural habitats, the temperature drops to between -10°C and -20°C (14°F to -4°F).

Freezing occurs for several months and the plant cells produce chemicals that prevent complete dehydration. In these northern habitats there is no thawing and freezing that we often experience in the UK which can damage the roots and may kill the hosta.

The exception is hostas found in the southern islands of Kyushu and Shikoku where the average low temperature range is 5.4°C to 6.2°C . (42° to 43°F). The longer they can hibernate, the better for the hostas. Some of the best and biggest hostas we saw were grown in Russia where snow cover lasts for months and with the average temperatures in the coldest months falling to -9°C (15.8°F) and with the lowest temperatures reaching close to -24°C and -29°C (-11° to -20°F) in recent years.

What we do in emergencies

When frost, snow or hailstones are forecast suddenly after the hostas have emerged, we always have horticultural fleece ready to cover them to prevent damage.

This is cheap to buy and will save you from having a disappointing display. Don't allow the fleece to get in contact with the foliage as this can cause damage when the fleece is damp and frozen. We normally suspend the fleece using wires attached to bamboo poles, wooden poles, and trunks of nearby shrubs and trees.



The hostas are grouped into 60-100 in each area to facilitate covering of the plants which can take two-three hours during emergencies. The use of large rolls of plastic bubble wrap was found to be equally effective but these are quite bulky to store.

We also purchased recycled pots to use as emergency covers for emerging hostas. The pot must be large enough so that it is not in contact with the hosta. These must be removed the morning after as a sudden rise in temperature during the day can ‘cook’ the foliage, causing more harm than good. If you are forgetful and not keen on getting up early, sticking a bamboo pole into the soil to raise the pot cover slightly helps prevent this problem especially when using black pots as these absorb more heat quickly.

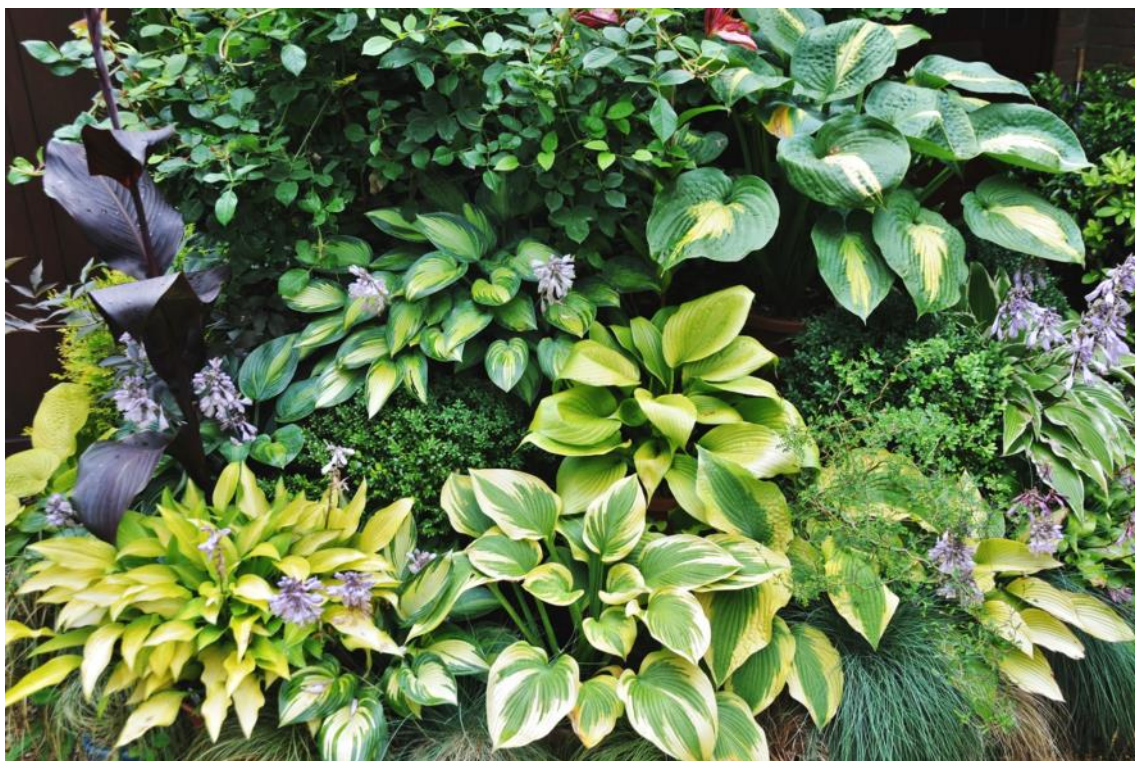


A quick method that we have tried was the use of very large, tall recycled cardboard packaging. We fence off a group of potted hostas using this material with success. This can be secured with wires tied into shrubs and tree trunks.

As we have access to clippings of flat pine branches, we also utilize these as emergency covers provided the hosta foliage can hold the weight of the branch. It might be sensible to use several small clippings rather than one large clipping. We keep the clippings in big plastic containers found near each group of potted hostas ready for the next freeze. These can keep until the danger of frost is over.



A combination of the above methods works for us here in the UK, especially where we live which is noted for its frost pockets. The British weather is so unpredictable, but we will do anything to protect the hostas to ensure visitors will enjoy their visit each year.



From Larry Tucker:

An Effective Undercover Scheme For overwintering Hostas in Containers:

For most of my three decades of hosta gardening in Memphis, their habitat has been confined to containers—out of necessity. My first gardening experience here was a wake-up call. I was serving delicacies to voles, who tunneled their way year-round to lunch in my back-yard beds. I quickly learned that in-ground hostas demanded more protection than our cats could provide, so I replanted most of the cultivars in submerged pots to deter the voracious varmints.

As my hosta collection grew from several dozen varieties to a gross, I tired of digging and graduated to portable above-ground pots, a timely adjustment that helped facilitate our 2014 move to a new garden. Most of the townhouse patio plot was transformed into a reservoir of ceramic blue containers bursting with hostas. But fall arrived and I missed the luxury of a garage, which had provided off-season storage for my sleeping beauties.

What to do? In this southern climate, how could I maintain hosta dormancy for the better part of three months? Winter here is often mild and rainy. Sometimes the simplest solution is the best. My scheme was to trim foliage, assemble pots in several snug groups, drape them with large tarps, stake the covers to the ground and keep everything secure and safe from gusty wintry winds and soaking showers.



A rare blanket of snow in 2018 topped

That kept my undercover garden cold, dry and dark from mid-November to late February.

Now accustomed to fickle weather here, including rare snowstorms, I first cover hosta crowns with a blanket of needles from our canopy of tall pines. Pine straw, this shady garden's seasonal groundcover, helps reinforce plant dormancy. Northern gardeners may prefer to use a layer of mulch.

When evidence of spring becomes conclusive, I peel back the tarps to give hostas a jumpstart, then spread out the containers. Sunlight and showers soon have leaves peeking out of pots. I help propel them into the new season with doses of fertilizer.



Come November in Memphis, hosta pots are snugly grouped and put under

But, as you know, Jack Frost's appearance always is a threat, so I keep tarps handy just in case. If early-rising hostas have their foliage unfurled, I beat the momentary freeze with a "hat trick"- draping ball caps and other lids over the pots.

For the past six winters, my undercover scheme has helped potted hostas sleep peacefully and emerge in spring with renewed vigor. The pro-



Hats protect emerging hostas from late
tection also has kept my extensive collection of ceramic containers from cracking.

GO HOSTAS!





Book Notice

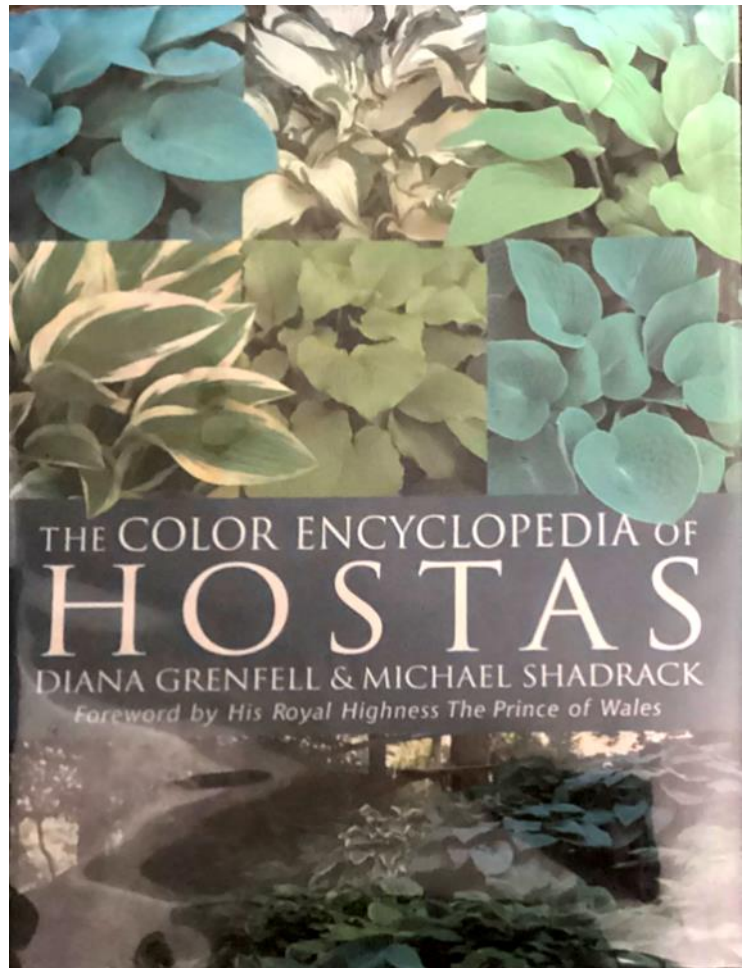
Clyde Crockett, Carmel, IN

The COLOR ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HOSTAS

Written by Diana Grenfell & Michael Shadrack
Photographs by Michael Shadrack, unless noted.
Published by Timber Press, Inc. : 2004

Another beautiful offering by what became a virtual hosta-book industry—Grenfell & Shadrack! One recalls particularly their collaboration in ‘**The New Encyclopedia of Hostas**’ (2009), noticed here in 2019. It was in my review of another Grenfell offering that I was reminded that I had somehow overlooked this work but promised to take notice asap. The moment of reckoning has arrived.

Even though a decade has elapsed since publication, the chapters on Cultivation (Chapter 3), Gardening (4), and Pests, Dis-



eases(5) are still relevant; however, the following titles are what we are looking for: *Hostas with Green Leaves; Chartreuse, Yellow & Gold Leaves; Blue, Blue-Gray, Blue-Green, & Gray-Green Leaves; Marginally-Variegated Leaves; Medio-Variegated Leaves; and, Streaked, Flecked, Marbled, Misted & Unusually Marked Leaves.*

Not only do we have a slew of Shadrackian quality pictures but the origin, clump size and habit, description, special needs, and similars of

each entry.

You might have to do some digging. but this one is a must for the connoisseurs. (As a matter of fact, that is covered by Chapter 12!)

Happy Gardening,
Clyde



Hosta 'Chesterland Gold'



H. 'Blue Canoe'



H. 'Ginsu Knife'



H. 'Niagra Falls'



Hostas Happenin's

Don Rawson, Grand Rapids, MI

The Upside to Downsizing: Doing More With Less

“I just LOVE flowers! But I also enjoy spending time with family and pursuing my other interests.”

That is a comment I often hear. Gardening is very time-consuming, and the constraints that we all have on our busy schedules sometime cause gardening to seem more like a duty than a pleasurable activity.

It is no secret that hosta gardeners are an aging demographic. Look around at your local gardening club or while attending a national convention. Young people are a rare commodity. For many of us, we are running out of steam. We are wearing out. We are exhausted. We always thought that once we retire, we would have more time to do what we want to do. Now we are finding that we can't keep up and that is evident while walking through the garden. With all our hostas and companion plants, it is now more than we can handle. In the fall, when we are spending hours and hours cleaning up the gardens, we just want to be done with it all.

Downsizing is never easy. It is so hard to admit you can no longer keep up a garden. Getting rid of the plants is heartbreaking. It can be difficult to let a beloved garden go when it becomes too much work. It is definitely a tough decision, even when you know in the long run that it will be a good decision. What do you keep and what do you give up? How do you fit everything into a smaller plot when you're used to the expansive landscape you've enjoyed for years? It's a dilemma that most of us will eventually find ourselves in.

down·size / doun sīz /

verb 1. to move to a smaller place

There are many different reasons why you may need to downsize your gardens. It may be to spend more time with grandchildren, to travel, or be-

cause of your health. Or perhaps you have been overzealous with adding new gardens to your landscape over the years. It could be that you simply are starting to feel stressed with what you have and want more free time to relax...to not worry about anything. Whatever the case, the key to downsizing is to plan ahead. Don't leave the task of moving plants until you no longer have the energy to do so.



Photo by Whistle Hill Nursery. Used by permission.

It may be hard to imagine, but maybe over the years you've been a little overzealous with adding new garden beds to your property.

The good news is that there is an upside to downsizing. It encourages you to focus on your favorites. It gives you the opportunity to showcase the special hostas that are your pride and joy. And it also allows you to take better care of those plants that you keep. You will find new ways to do more with less. You will also discover that you can still enjoy your gardening pas-

time without giving it up entirely. Downsizing permits you to pursue your other interests while at the same time retain the gratification from gardening that you have always experienced.

Steps to Downsizing a Garden

Here are ten tips to help in the downsizing process:

(1) Make a plan.

Overhauling a garden does not need to be haphazard. Begin by devising a plan. Assess your garden and make a list of the plants you want to keep and a list of the plants you want to remove. Take some time to sit down and put your plan to paper. You may consider hiring a landscape designer to come up with a new plan for you.

(2) Plan carefully.

It's tempting to clear a little space and then get on with planting, but it's far better to first get rid of everything you don't want rather than doing it piecemeal. Once the garden is cleared, it will be easier to see how to change the design.

This is a good time to decide if you want to completely start over with a new perennial bed that is low maintenance. Would you rather just begin with a clean slate and choose the right plants this time around? If you are dealing with an overgrown garden, this might be better.

(3) Do so gently.

Downsize your garden gently. It does not need to be all or nothing. Select the plants you love and gradually eliminate the ones you don't. Do not become overwhelmed. It does not have to happen all at once. Work on one bed at a time, marking those plants to keep and the others that will go. Reworking a bed, enriching the soil with organic matter, installing new edging, and adding irrigation can be done one step at a time. Don't get stressed out!



Photo by Lynn Hjelman. Used by permission.

The upside to downsizing is that it gives you the opportunity to showcase the plants you appreciate the most. Begin by making a list of the plants you want to keep and those you want to remove. Here, a little helper is checking out *Hosta* ‘Blue Mouse Ears’.

(4) Keep it simple.

The danger with moving from a large garden to a smaller area is that you will naturally try to keep a bit of everything. The result is that this hodge-podge will look far from being planned. A word of caution: it is essential to limit yourself to those few favorite and unusual varieties that you treasure the most. When it comes to getting rid of the others, you can ease the pain by donating plants to your friends and local garden club. Grow what grows best and ditch the rest.

(5) Small plants take less space than large ones.

This seems obvious, but it is something to keep in mind when selecting which plants to keep. Miniature and small hostas take less space than the giants. That means that you can have more varieties in a limited amount of room.

Seniors who move to an apartment or smaller house can still enjoy a little garden on their balcony, deck, or backyard with an assortment of small hostas. It's all about doing more with less. Consider the small cottage gardens of England in which many plants line the narrow walkways between each home. Potted hostas can be displayed on shelves and in baskets. Just be aware that while containers are lovely, they are not low maintenance. They need to be watered during the hot part of the summer; they have to be moved in and out of winter storage, and the potting soil needs to be refreshed each year. Remember that you want to avoid having your gardening duties become too much of a chore. If you choose to plant in pots, limit it to six or less.

(6) Select easy-to-care-for perennials that pack a punch.

Replace demanding plants with carefree ones. If you have a plant in your garden that needs watered regularly, requires fertilizer throughout the season, and demands staking and pruning, then maybe it's time to bid that difficult plant good-bye. Instead, choose plants that are drought-tolerant and are happy in the environment you have without much attention.

Similarly, plants that spread relentlessly should be removed (if possible!) and replaced with better behaved varieties. Let's face it: plants that are overly aggressive and invasive are too much work to stay on top of. Perennials you want to keep are those that bloom for an extended period but don't require much maintenance like pruning or deadheading, especially those attention getters that really pack a punch.

(7) Plant perennials instead of annuals.

If you are used to planting lots of annuals each year, then you should transition to low-maintenance perennials. Not only does this eliminate the need to buy and plant all those annuals, but you will find the overall maintenance is less too.

(8) Install irrigation.

Think about the maintenance of your garden. Are you continually pulling hoses around during those hot summer months? Consider an irrigation plan that will fit your budget. If a sprinkler system is not in your budget, then perhaps you can add drip irrigation or soaker hoses yourself. As a last resort, set up a sprinkler that will water your entire garden and put it on a timer. Work smarter, not harder.

(9) Minimize weeding.

This is easier said than done. Weeding the garden is a never-ending task. Nothing causes more headaches and backaches for gardeners than weeds, those noxious rascals that constantly steal sunlight, water, and nutrients from our garden, leaving things looking unsightly and growing poorly.

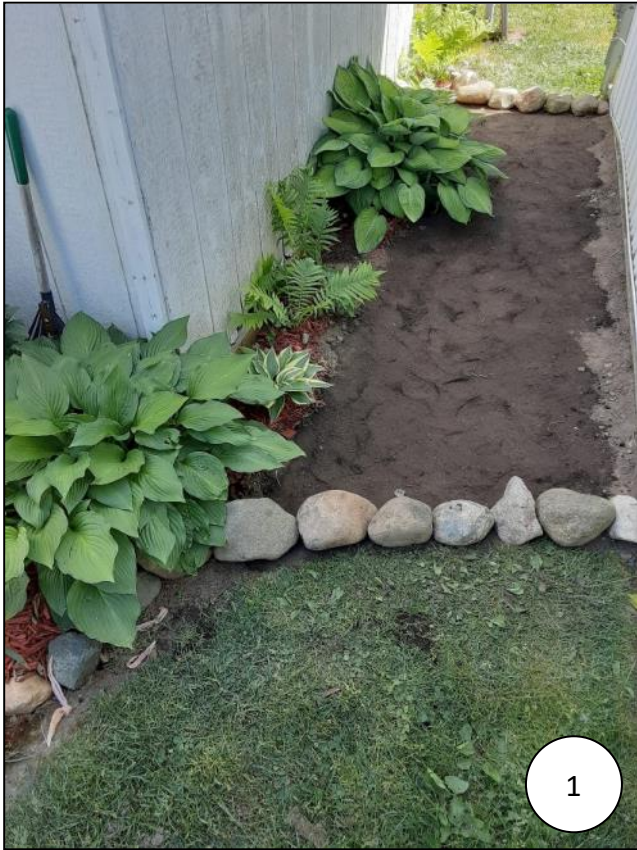
Once your garden has been weeded in early spring, apply a preemergent herbicide such as Preen or Snapshot. Follow up with applying a layer of mulch. Keep a sprayer of Roundup filled at all times. Stay on top of it so you don't get discouraged or overwhelmed.

(10) Hire it done.

This may not be an option for everyone, but hiring people with stronger backs and more flexible knees is a great way to reduce your workload. Tasks such as hauling and spreading mulch, unloading bags of potting soil, mowing a large lawn, digging holes to plant trees, and removing brush can be done by others while you supervise.

Summary

There comes a moment in every gardener's journey when your back and legs really hurt. Eventually, you will likely say, "Maybe this garden is too much." Deciding to downsize your garden can be an emotional decision, but you don't have to abandon your garden completely to make it fit your lifestyle, your physical ability, and your priorities. You can downsize by baby-steps. The upside is that it allows you to focus on your favorites. It gives you the opportunity to showcase the hostas and other special plants that really grow well for you and those that you really enjoy. And it also allows you to take better care of those plants for years to come. Wherever you are in your garden journey, there are ways to keep things growing. Happy gardening!



Photos by Teresa Rositas. Used by permission.

Doing more with less: Teresa Rositas of Ovid, Michigan found a perfect little space for a shade garden. The plan really came together with an arrangement



Hybridizer Corner . . .

Don Rawson, Grand Rapids, MI

Thank you for joining us as we learn about hybridizing hostas. In previous issues of the eNewsletter, we covered how to make a cross. It is simply putting pollen from one hosta onto the stigma of another. Pollen can be easily transferred with a small paintbrush, tweezers or hemostats. A pair of optical magnifiers such as the Donegan OptiVISOR with a DA-5 lens makes the task

Collecting Pollen to Make a Cross

In the October 2023 issue, we covered how to make a cross. The pistil is the female part of the flower. When the flower opens, the pistil usually protrudes the furthest. The tip of the pistil curves upward and on the end is a small pad. This is where the pollen must be placed to successfully pollinate the flower and produce seeds.

The male part of the flower is the stamen. Hosta flowers typically have six stamens and they are usually shorter than the pistil. Each stamen includes an anther that splits open to reveal the fluffy, yellow pollen grains within. Making a cross is simply the act of moving pollen from one hosta onto the stigma of another.

As the scape continues to grow, the flower buds swell up like a balloon as they prepare to open. This usually happens in the morning. Once a flower opens, it is ready for the pollen. However, depending on the temperature and other weather conditions, the pollen on potential donors may or may not be ripe and ready to use in early morning. Therefore, it is very beneficial to collect pollen the day before you wish to use it.

Generally, pollen will ripen and turn golden yellow during the day. It provides a nutritious meal for many insects, so it can be helpful to collect the pollen you want to use to protect it from being eaten. Wind and rain can also disperse the fluffy pollen before you have a chance to use it.

It should be noted that some cultivars are pollen sterile. The term *pollen sterile* is used for hostas that produce pollen that is non-viable as well as those that produce no pollen at all. *H.* ‘Neptune’ and ‘Skywriter’ are examples of hostas that seldom produce pollen.

Collecting pollen is just a matter of gently removing the stamens from the flower. This can be done with hemostats. Grasping the stamens and bending them to break them off is the best procedure, particularly if you wish to pollinate the flower after the stamens are removed. Pulling on them straight can break the entire flower off.



Photo by Joanna Kovalcsik. Used by permission.

Grabbing the stamens and bending them to one side until they break off is better than pulling on them, which can break the flower off.

If you remove a flower that is about to open the night before, there will be no yellow pollen on the stamens. The anthers will be purplish. No worry — the pollen will ripen after it is collected. Let the flower sit overnight. By morning, the anthers should be ripe with fluffy pollen.

Occasionally, the anthers will not ripen or split open willingly. Setting the stamens aside for an hour or two may coax them to release the pollen. As a last resort, the anthers can be carefully cut open.

Pollen must be viable in order for the cross to be successful. The pollen sack must be open and the pollen fluffy, dry and yellow. White pollen

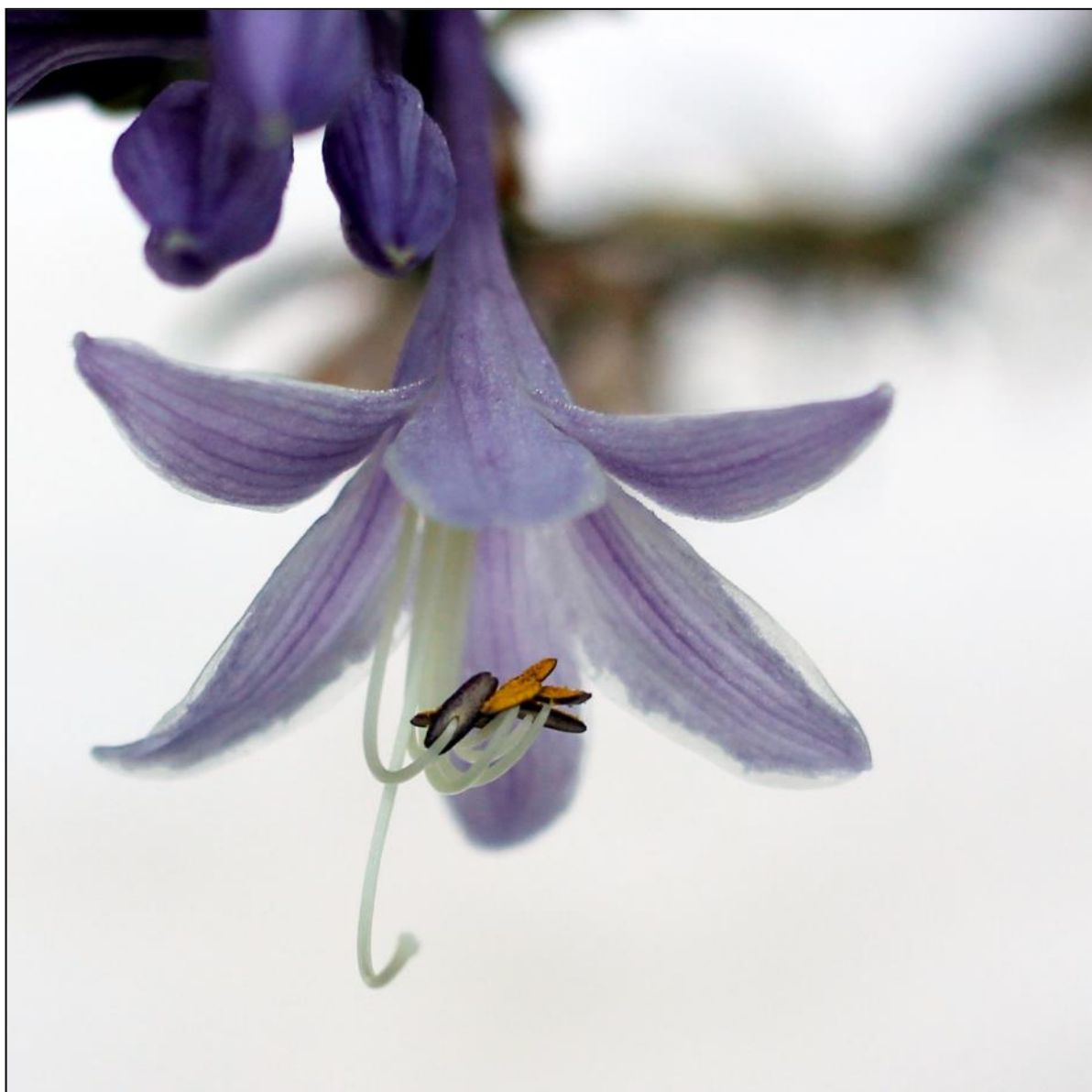


Photo by Joanna Kovalcsik. Used by permission.

Pollen must be viable for the cross to be successful. The pollen sack must be open and the pollen should be fluffy, dry and yellow.

is not viable. At this stage, weather and time of day become an important consideration. Moisture in the form of rain, excessive humidity, dew, or from an errant sprinkler kills pollen. Often, temperatures in excess of 85 degrees Fahrenheit cause a significant loss of seed set. As you know, high temperatures are usually accompanied by high humidity. Other than late fall hybridizing, low temperatures are not generally a problem. Excessive wind can cause pollen to blow away, scapes to break, or hosta flowers to self-pollinate.

Once the pollen is ripe, gently brush the pollen-filled anther over the stigma until it is yellow with pollen. A pair of tweezers will make the task easier. The pollen grains are very tiny, but once the deed is done the stigma will be noticeably yellow.

Short-term Pollen Storage

Collecting pollen the day before is often beneficial as it may not be ready early the next morning. Pollen that is stored for daily use should be kept in a cool dry place, out of the wind and direct sunlight. A cool basement is suitable, as well as a refrigerator as long as the pollen is dry and is placed inside a sealed container. Pollen can generally be stored for a week or more, but I prefer to use the freshest pollen available, which is why I replenish my pollen daily if possible.

Any type of container will work — cups, egg cartons, etc. Do NOT use Dixie cups or Styrofoam cups that will blow away with the slightest breeze.



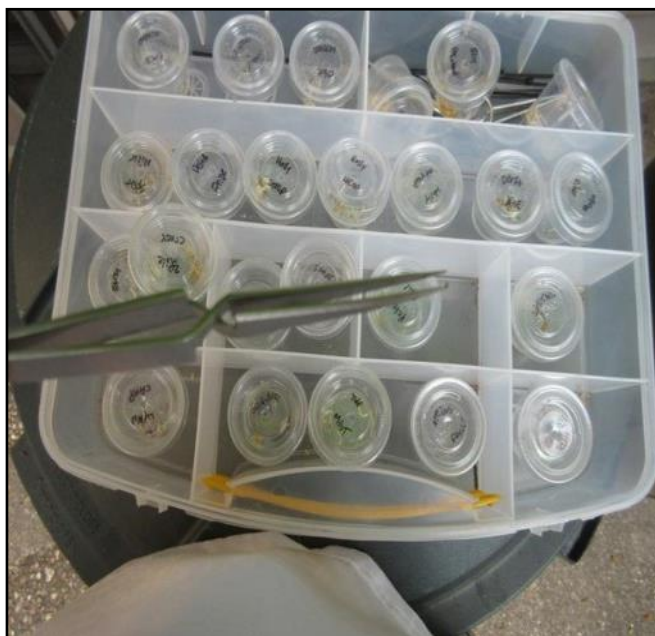
Photos by Don Rawson.

Any type container will work for short-term pollen storage — an egg carton, pill organizer, plastic tray, or cups that will not blow away.

If pollen from many different hostas will be collected, a tray to hold the cups will be helpful. Another option is to place the pollen in a pill planner or plastic storage tray, although such containers need to be washed out when switching to a different pollen donor. In any case, make sure the pollen is clearly labeled.

Jeff Moore of Janesville, WI shares his method for short-term pollen storage: “I am sure everyone handles their pollen a little different, but here is what I do: first, I collect fresh pollen each morning from the potential pollen plants I will be using for the next day. I remove the stamens with cuticle scissors. I put them in soufflé cups (which are basically Jello shot cups). I poke a hole in the lid and mark each cup for each different pollen. They all dry nicely this way and are fluffy the next morning.”

“I keep the pollen in these cups up to a week. I use self-closing forceps to take the anthers out of the cups and apply the pollen to the pod parent in the morning. Each morning, I try to have much more pollen available than I will ever use. This seems easy to me and has worked really well for years now. The soufflé cups are very cheap on Amazon.”



Photos by Jeff Moore. Used by permission.

Jello shot cups placed in a plastic organizer is one method to store pollen for daily use. Jeff Moore of Janesville, WI uses cuticle scissors to remove the stamens from the flower, and then self-closing tweezers to grasp the stamens when making a cross.

Ripening the Pollen in a Pegboard Tray

An alternative method to ripen pollen is to place the flowers in a tray of water the night before. This method was first explained by Ken Skrupky of Rice Lake, WI in the 2010 issue of *The Hosta Journal*.¹

For this method, you will need a container (such as a cake pan) and a piece of 1/4" pegboard. Water is poured into the tray to a level of about 1". Next, the pegboard is placed in the tray. Then, unopened flower buds from potential pollen parents are collected and inserted in each hole of the floating pegboard. The tray is kept overnight in a cool area as the flowers open and the pollen ripens.



Photo by Don Rawson.

- 1. Pick unopened flowers from your pollen donors the evening before you wish to use them.**
- 2. Place the flowers in the pegboard and add about 1" water to the tray.**
- 3. Place in a cool spot and cover with cling wrap. The flowers will open overnight, the pollen will be big and fluffy, ready to use the following day.**
- 4. Flowers can be stored for several days if kept in a cool area.**

One benefit of this method is that ensures that the pollen has not been eaten or contaminated by bees and other insects. The pollen has not deteriorated in the sun and wind. In addition, it is a great way to have fluffy, golden pollen ready by early morning. The pollen grains will change from a shape like a kidney bean to a round ball. It is superior to simply picking the flowers and sitting them on a table overnight.

In the Next Issue...

What if you wish to make a cross, but the desired pollen parent is not yet flowering, or perhaps the pollen parent flowered a month or two beforehand? In the next issue, we will look at long-term storage so that pollen can be used weeks, months, and even years later. Stay tuned

¹ Ken Skrupky, “Hybridizing: Protecting the Pollen,” *The Hosta Journal*, 2010, Vol. 41, Number 1, page 25.



Photo by Don Rawson.

With its dark purple anthers, *Hosta* 'Skywriter' is pollen sterile, rarely (if ever) producing any viable pollen.



And In Other Hosta News . . .

Reminders for AHS Members!!

Get your cameras ready for summer! Capture your favorite hostas throughout the summer. Then remember to submit your favorite photos to the annual photo contest. Watch for details in the AHS Journal and set a reminder for fall to get those pictures entered!



Public Domain Picture

Popularity Poll



Each year the American Hosta Society (AHS) conducts a popularity poll among its members to determine their favorite Hostas.

Popularity polls are important to Hosta gardeners, letting everyone know which plants perform best in their gardens throughout the years.

From AHS Popularity Poll website

Remember to vote for your favorite hostas! Sign into the 'Members Only' section on the AHS [webpage](#) and follow the instructions under 'Popularity Poll'. **Popularity Poll Voting closes July 31.**

Anyone can explore the [AHS Hosta Treasury](#). Have a unique seedling you'd like to register and be part of the Hosta Treasury? Visit [AHS Hosta Registration](#) for details and start documenting your "treasure" with pictures (don't forget your ruler too)!

Videos now available on the AHS Website

Brendan Shick, AHS Video Producer

This quarter we have launched a video section on the AHS website. At present, three presentations and two garden tours are available to view in total. Garden tours were featured at American Hosta Society conventions and include interviews with the gardeners themselves. We look forward to producing similar content during the next AHS National Convention (Peoria, IL) in June 2025 and including this on the AHS website in the months to follow.

Non-members may **preview** some of the content available to members at <https://americanhostasociety.org/videos> and enjoy a full-length sample presentation on Hosta Virus X. Meanwhile, members of the American Hosta Society have exclusive access (password protected) to the extended garden tour videos and presentations at <https://americanhostasociety.org/members/resources/videos>.

Grab a beverage, sit back and relax, and watch these videos as you glean design ideas, jot down your favorite hostas, ooh and ahh over impressive landscapes, and maybe learn a thing or two. We hope these pieces will also serve as a resource for local Hosta Clubs to use at their gatherings.

Editor's Note: You can also go to <https://americanhostasociety.org/> to explore all that is available on the website including the Videos and Members Only area.

Become a member. Become a friend. - Join Today!

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Hosta: The Friendship Plant™

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2025 AHS/MRHS Convention

"Hosta Double Feature"

Jointly sponsored by the American Hosta Society
and the Midwest Regional Hosta Society

Hosted by the Central Illinois Hosta Society
June 19-21, 2025
Par-A-Dice Hotel East Peoria, IL



Garden Tours – Accredited Hosta Show - Vendors – Live and
Silent Auctions

Raffle - Educational Speakers – Hosta Seed Growers Seedling Competition

Convention Gift Hosta is *Hosta* 'Prairieland Memories'
Optional Thursday evening at Hornbaker Gardens
Garden Center – Arboretum – Botanic Garden

**For more information and to register, go to
hostaconvention.org and complete the
registration form.**

(or print off the registration form on the following page)



Some of our tour gardens are pictured above.

REGISTRATION FORM – *Hosta Double Feature*

2025 AHS NATIONAL / MRHS REGIONAL CONVENTION

HOSTED BY THE CENTRAL ILLINOIS HOSTA SOCIETY

June 19-21, 2025 – East Peoria, Illinois

Par-A-Dice Hotel, 21 Blackjack Blvd, East Peoria, IL 61611

Make hotel reservations by using the link at the AHS convention website:

hostaconvention.org beginning June 30, 2024.



REGISTRATION DETAILS *(Please print clearly - one attendee per form)*

Name:	Preferred Name on Badge:
Address:	City, State, Zip Code:
Phone:	Email:

*Please see cancellation policy at hostaconvention.org

EARLY REGISTRATION if received by 2/15/25	\$170	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
STANDARD REGISTRATION if received by 5/31/25	\$185	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
LATE REGISTRATION received after 5/31/25	\$200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
MEALS ONLY (companion/vendors) - Friday breakfast/lunch/dinner, Sat Breakfast/dinner	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
SATURDAY GARDEN TOURS - VAN TRANSPORTATION (OPTIONAL) (Limited to 28 attendees - Includes boxed lunch)	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Optional Thursday night welcome event – Hornbaker Gardens (Optional Van transportation to Hornbaker Gardens) (Or indicate need for free ride sharing below right)	\$ 20 \$ 15	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
Friday Banquet Meal Choice: ___ Chicken Florentine ___ Salmon Filet ___ Eggplant Parmesan (veg)	Saturday Banquet Meal Choice: ___ Stuffed Chicken Breast ___ Blackened Pork Chop ___ Pasta Primavera (veg)	Total Due ->	<input type="text"/>

**Check Payable to: [2025 AHS/MRHS Convention](#)
Or call 309-678-4119 with a Credit Card.**

List any special dietary restrictions/allergies: _____

MAIL THIS FORM AND PAYMENT TO: American Hosta Society, Registrar, P O Box 7407, Villa Park, IL 60181-7407

Hosta Show: Please check if you wish to <input type="checkbox"/> Judge <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk Plan # _____ entries in the Hosta Leaf Show Seedling Competition: Plan # _____ entries in Seedling Competition Rules & Regulations available at hostaconvention.org	Friday night auction I plan to donate _____ items for the auction.
	Thursday event and Saturday Gardens tour - ride sharing transportation: I can provide transport for ___ person(s). I will need transport for ___ person(s).

Hosta Judges Clinics: I will attend ___ Clinic I ___ Clinic II ___ Clinic III | Need Judges Handbook ___

(\$10 payable at Clinic)

Photography and filming activities may be conducted during American Hosta Society events, and attendees or personal property may appear in resulting photographic pictures or video and may be used in printed or digital publications, social media, advertising, or other AHS activities. Participation in the AHS convention constitutes permission and consent for the American Hosta Society to use the resulting photographs and video for any purpose without payment or acknowledgement. Additionally, persons who participate in an AHS convention assume all risk of personal injury and loss or damage to property.

Registration is limited to 330 participants. Questions? – call 309-678-4119

September 2024



And In Regional News . . .

MRHS WINTER SYMPOSIUM



2025 Winter Symposium Milwaukee/Brookfield, Wisconsin

February 21-22, 2025

Hosted by Midwest Regional Hosta Society

Information available late 2024. Please check the website in November, 2024

2025 Winter Symposium

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- Gain access to members-only online materials
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- Further your love of hostas and gardening

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- Receive a copy of *The Hosta Adventure – A Growers Guide* and the *Hosta of the Year* booklet, both filled with color photographs and a wealth of information.
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- 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.
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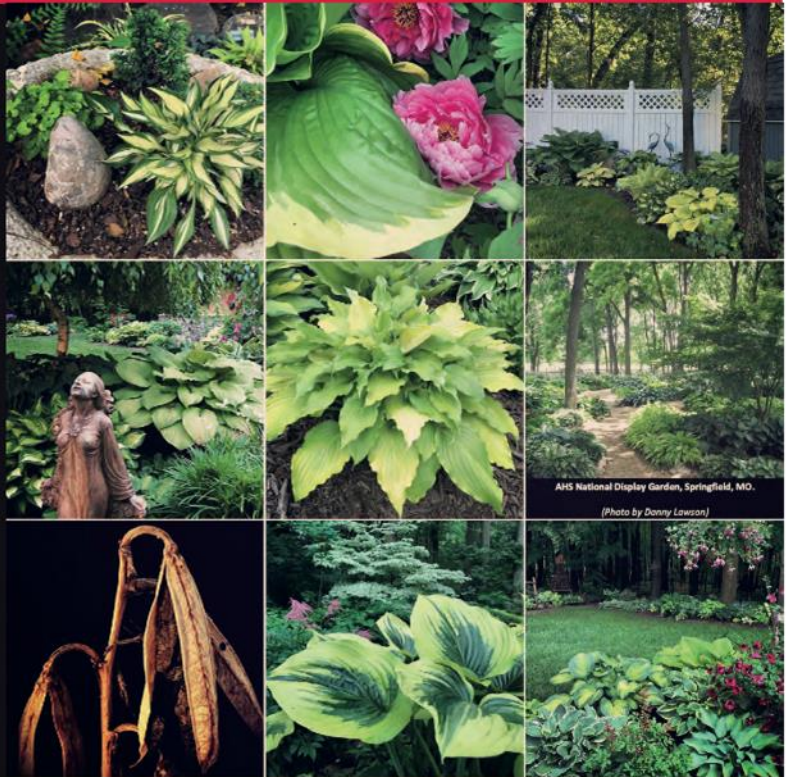
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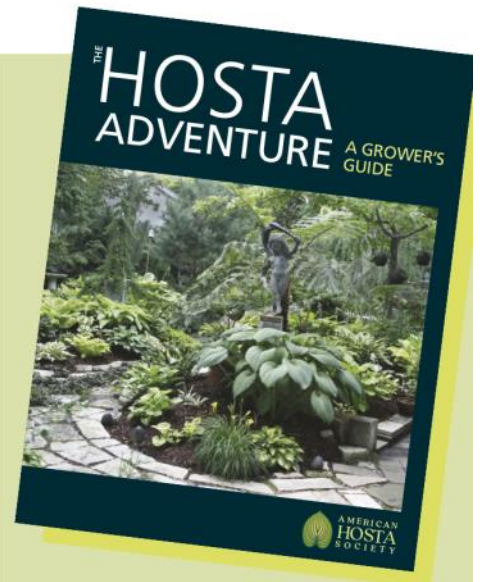
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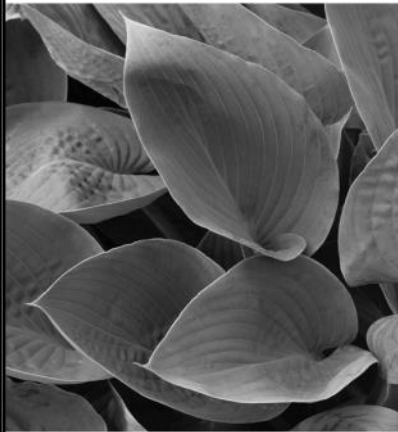
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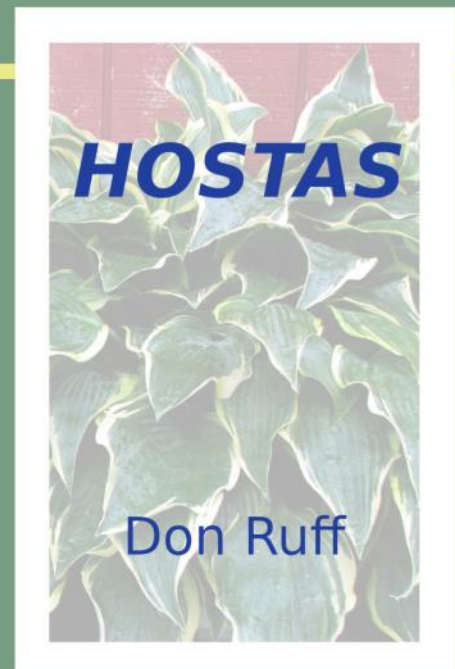
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