



**Save the dates**

**Hosta Forum**

Sunday 22 April 2018  
➔ See flyer on page 15

**Bus Tour**

Sunday 10 June 2018  
➔ See flyer on page 14

**BBQ/Picnic**

Sunday 22 July 2018

**Annual General Meeting**

Sunday 9 September 2018



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**Counting Down to Spring!**

Hi, hosta friends. Are you impatient for spring to get here? I sure am!

This winter feels interminable. Where I am, just north of Ottawa (zone 4), the snowbanks were finally receding, and with the temperature a balmy +8°C last weekend, I went for a tour of my garden. Sadly, (or so I mistakenly thought at the time), not a single hosta pip could be seen coming up. By Tuesday night the temperature fell to -12°C and along with the cold came another 10-15cm of snow, which melted within 24 hours, and the temperature is back up to +6°C today. With this crazy weather roller coaster, I thought some tips to protect our hostas from frost damage (page 10) would be particularly timely.

So until my beloved hostas finally start to come up, my way of counting down to spring and getting a great big jolt of hosta love will be by attending the OHS Hosta Forum, which is just a couple of weeks away (22 April—see the flyer on page 15). If you haven't made plans to attend, check out the speaker lineup on page 3. I hope this issue convinces you to go... but don't delay! The last date to get tickets is April 15th.

After every issue, I usually get a few very nice emails with thanks or praise. A lot of time and effort goes into each issue, and I am glad to know that OHS members are reading and enjoying them.

I'm very fortunate to have access to the excellent hosta-related articles that you get to read in every issue. The majority of those articles are reprinted from the newsletters of other hosta societies, thanks to the AHS newsletter exchange.

Our own OHS member Jayne Christiani has written an original, entertaining, and informative article for every OHS newsletter since I became editor. You'll find another great one from Jayne on page 4.

But there is one aspect of the newsletter that I would really like to improve: reports on OHS events in the GTA. I get the sense that everyone who attends them has a glorious time... but I'm 500km away.

I could really use your help if you regularly attend OHS meetings and you enjoy writing. I hope that several members will volunteer to capture OHS events in words and/or photos, so that far-away members like me get to enjoy them too, and maybe it'll also entice more local members to come out more often.

If you might also be interested in co-editing the newsletter with me (selecting articles, learning layout, suggesting new ideas), let me know!

I hope that you will think about it and email me, or seek me out at the Hosta Forum. Don't be shy!

*Marta Cepak*

OHS Newsletter Editor  
[hostanews@gmail.com](mailto:hostanews@gmail.com)

# ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY



Visit our website:  
[ontariohostasociety.com](http://ontariohostasociety.com)

Mailing address:  
16 Sparrow Ln.  
Wasaga Beach, ON  
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## Membership



\$15.00 for 1 year  
\$40.00 for 3 years

<http://ontariohostasociety.com/index.php/membership>

The membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st. Members joining after October 1st are deemed to be paid-up until December 31st of the following year.

## OHS Newsletter

Newsletters are published 3-4 times a year. PDF copies of past issues of the OHS newsletter are available in the Members section of the OHS website.

### Article Submissions

We are always looking for hosta-related tips, articles, and photos. Do you have something to share? Send it to:

[hostanews@gmail.com](mailto:hostanews@gmail.com)

### Advertising

Hosta retailers: Business card-sized ads are only \$100 per publication year.

## Our newest members

# Welcome!

Dianne Bailey  
Debbie Brown  
Ron Drury  
Lois Hersey  
Bob Munday

Peter Schieman  
Helene Selemidis-Hill  
Kathryn Spiwak  
Christine Williams  
Marlit Young

## OHS 2018 Executive

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## Meet the Hosta Forum Speakers



### Bob Leask

#### Hot New Hostas and Where Do They Come From

Bob has been "dabbling" in hostas for over 25 years and after he discovered that there was more than just the green one and the green and white one, he has sought out and acquired interesting varieties to try in his challenging growing circumstance (too many trees!).

From personal contacts with hosta pioneers Jim Hawes, Peter Ruh, and Keith Squires, he learned of the history of early varieties and species and the methods used to propagate the unusual seedlings, sports and offspring that often appeared. With the advent of tissue culture, the hosta world exploded with thousands of new varieties available today.

What's hot, what's popular, and where do you find them? In his long association with the OHS, Bob has stuck his nose into nooks and crannies to see what's new.



### Charlie Dobbin

#### Gardening in a Changing Climate

Charlie Dobbin is a well-known horticulturist and landscape designer with professional gardening experience world-wide. In May 2002 Charlie started her own landscape design and horticultural consulting company, 'Garden Solutions by Charlie Dobbin'.

Currently Charlie hosts the Garden Show on AM740 every Saturday at 9am. She also teaches horticulture at Humber College and Durham College and fits in garden consultations when she can. During 2015 she was the Garden Director for the Luminato Festival in David Pecaut Square in Toronto. When she's not providing garden advice to clients, Charlie can be seen delivering practical and entertaining gardening tips on a variety of television stations.

She has diverse experience including: 18 years in retail Garden Centres, co-hosted the HGTV-show 'One Garden Two Looks', Horticultural Director for Canada Blooms, The Flower and Garden Festival for 12 years, and volunteer judging for Communities in Bloom – Ontario.

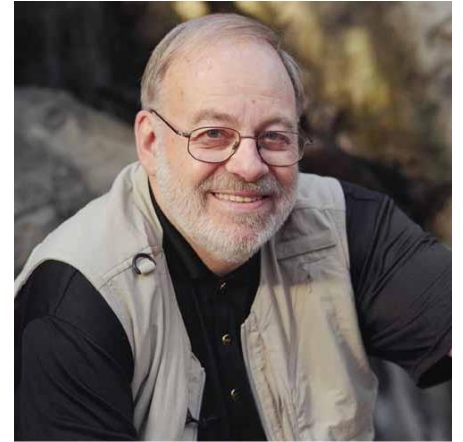


Photo : © Josée Lambert

### Reggie Millette

#### Hostas: Grow Them As Per Species Habits

Reggie Millette's hosta enthusiasm in his very visited garden led to founding the Quebec Hostas and Hemerocallis Society in 2000. In his garden he grows over 700 different hostas. In 2003 he wrote the very first book on hostas in French. This book became a best seller with 16,000 copies. This first book was followed by a book on daylilies and a third one on irises. A new book followed on hostas in 2014, in French, also in an English version. The new book *Hostas-Grow your Hostas as per species habits* is now available on his website <http://www.millettegardenpictures.com>.

Reggie was the host of a radio show on gardening for 350 weeks. Reggie takes many pictures now sold through [www.millettephotomedia.com](http://www.millettephotomedia.com) and writes articles in many gardening magazines. He gives conferences all over Quebec, France, and the United States.



## Directions to the Hosta Forum

### Directions from Toronto

- Take Hwy 401 west to Hwy 25 (Exit 320 Milton).
  - Take Hwy 25 north past Campbellville Road and before the 10th sideroad.
  - Glencairn is on the east side of Hwy 25.
- or
- Take Hwy 407 west to Hwy 401 exit.
  - Take Hwy 25 north past Campbellville Road and before the 10th sideroad.
  - Glencairn is on the east side of Hwy 25.

### Directions from Oakville

- Take Highway 25 north from the QEW to Steeles Road
- Turn west (left) on to Steeles Road for approximately 1.7 kilometers
- Then turn right to continue north on Highway 25
- Take Highway 25 north past Campbellville Road and before the 10th sideroad
- Glencairn is on the east side of Highway 25



### Directions from Hamilton

- Take Highway 6 north to Highway 401
- Take Highway 401 east to Highway 25 (Exit 320 Milton)

Take Highway 25 north past Campbellville Road and before the 10th sideroad

- Glencairn is on the east side of Highway 25
- or
- Take 407 east to Highway 25 north exit
  - Turn west (left) on to Steeles Road for approximately 1.7 kilometers
  - Then turn right to continue north on Highway 25
  - Take Highway 25 north past Campbellville Road and before the 10th sideroad
  - Glencairn is on the east side of highway 25

## 2018 OHS Events

Check the EVENTS page of our website:

<https://ontariohostasociety.com/index.php/events>

### OHS Hosta Forum

**When:** Sunday 22 April 2018 ➔ [Details on page 15](#)  
*Hurry! Tickets only available until 15 April!*

### OHS Bus Tour

**When:** Sunday 10 June 2018 ➔ [Details on page 14](#)

### OHS BBQ/Picnic

**When:** Sunday 22 July 2018

**Where:** Garden of Kelly Williams  
 9248 County Road 1, Hockley, ON

**Note:** Most GPS have trouble finding it. Try:  
<https://goo.gl/maps/n2NmpiCdAXu>

### Annual General Meeting & Auction

**When:** Sunday 9 September

**Where:** Nassagaweya Community Centre, Brookville Hall

## Go For The Green! (Or the Gold!) (Or the Blue!)

Emerald green. Chartreuse. Forest green. Apple green. Shiny leaf. Matte leaf.

Why would you buy hostas with these solid colours and finishes? Variegated hostas are the way to go! Green leaves with gold margins. Yellow leaves with white margins. White leaves with green margins. We've all seen them and gravitate toward a minimum two-coloured leaf. Three is better! Many of us want nothing more than variegated hostas, and the more pronounced the differences within the leaf, the better.

We've just cleared under our trees where the grass doesn't grow very well. We trudge off to our local nursery or hosta dealer, intent on brightening up that area under the trees. We want colour. We want that area to pop. We're tired of nothing but weeds growing there.

At the garden centre we are inundated with a variety of hostas, most all sporting some form of variegation.



*Hosta Apple Green (photo Marta Cepek)*

The solid coloured hostas, be they green or be they blue, sit on the shelves, row upon row, and it looks like no one has moved a pot in ten years. You hurry by these beauties as if you are being chased by a wasp, because you have spotted a brilliant yellow and blue hosta at the end of the aisle. Oh, and there is another you like, and then another. You fill your cart, thrilled with your finds, plotting in your head where you will be putting each one when you get them home. If you are like me, you don't care where they are going to go... there is always room for yet another hosta in your garden.

You pay for your purchases, deal with the drudgery of loading them into your vehicle and praying that you can get them home without a pot tipping over. Golden rule number one of gardening! When are transporting plants, you WILL HAVE DIRT IN YOUR VEHICLE.

Somehow your careful driving skills are tested to the limit on your journey home from the nursery. There is always going to be that light that you have to stop for fast, or a kid on a bike, or a squirrel. And if you are fortunate enough to think you have made it home scot-free, you will inevitably drop or spill one as you are taking it out of your vehicle. So, you get the pots out of your car or truck, clean up the dirt, then grab your shovels and head out to the trees. You place the pots around the base of the trees before planting, and stand back to admire your handiwork.

The wind slowly leaves your inflated sails, and you feel dejected. Why did they look so good at the nursery, and here under your trees, they seem to get lost somehow? What went wrong? They are outstanding specimens!

I have many, many customers that ask for my 'professional' advice when setting up their gardens. A lot of people, especially new gardeners, don't know where to start. I always ask preliminary questions. Size of the garden, type of shade cover, colour of the house (if the garden is at the house...you don't want yellow hostas against yellow siding), etc., etc., etc. And then the important question...what hostas appeal to you and make your heart happy?

If someone asked me, my preference is yellow leaves with either blue or green margins. And the more corrugation in the leaf, the better.

For arguments' sake, we'll build on my colour scheme. So I love Great Expectations, Paradigm, Epiphany: all medium to large hostas, all with some form of corrugation to the leaf, all considered to have green margins. But because of the size, they would go at the back of my garden. If you are planting these under trees, all of a sudden that area has gotten brighter. So, now we need some smaller hostas for the foreground. Emerald Ruff Cut, June,

Justine, Island Breeze. I almost always stagger my hostas.

	X		X		X
X		X		X	
	X		X		X

So I stand back and try to imagine what it will look like when my specimens have gotten to mature size. It looks okay, but if I tuck in a Marilyn Monroe, a Puddles and Bumps, and a Green Sparkler, my variegated hostas seem to pop.

	X		X		X		X
		O		O		O	
	X		X		X		X

Of course, this is a simplified version, but you get the idea. Each of the greens I have mentioned are beauties unto themselves, but ultimately, they allow the variegated hostas to stand up and stand out. They pop with beauty. There is a calming of the heart as the eye travels from one hosta to the next. It is a work of art!

To a lot of people, the following paragraph will seem like Gardening 101, but you'd be surprised at how many people don't know this concept. Let's stick with the colour theme and say you have predominantly yellow leafed, green margined hostas. You are going to want to offset the variegation with solid yellow or solid green. Blues won't work. And white hostas are hard to work into the scheme. "Patriot" is an outstanding hosta. Lovely dark green centres with brilliant white edges, which only seem to get whiter as the season progresses. But put it beside a group of blue and yellow hostas and it looks out of place. That's not to say that the colours cannot be mixed.

Carefully consider the colours in your prized variegated hosta, the one you absolutely love and want to show off, and use those colours as a jumping point for the hostas or plants around it. Very similar to decorating your living room. If you can haul those three or four colours over into several other hostas, you have a colour scheme working. The end result is that your heart is happy, your eye is happy as it travels from one plant to the next, and the hostas look like you've had a professional landscaper come in and arrange your gardens for you. Outstanding!

In all the years I have been in business, I almost never have anyone ask me for green hostas. Blues, yes. Yellows, yes. But not greens. Until the summer of 2017. I had a gentleman come in with his trailer and he wanted to fill it with nothing but green hostas. Because they get asked for so infrequently, I really had to rack my brain as to what large-sized green hostas would fit in both his 20' x 40' garden, and his elderly neighbour's garden of equal size. As we talked, I discovered that he wanted to FEED the deer, not deter them.





Photo Jayne Christiani

Most people lament the deer feeding off their hostas, but both he and his neighbour just wanted to enjoy the beauty of these stunning creatures. He said the deer preferred solid green hostas and would only eat the green and white ones once the greens were gone. He also mentioned that once they were done feeding off the leaves, his gardens looked like stalks of celery planted all over the place, but he didn't care. The hostas grow back

and continue to bring the deer to his property. What a thrill to be able to quietly watch gentle wildlife to your backyard.

In mind my, there is definitely a lesson to be learned here. Don't sweat the small stuff! The hostas will grow back, but nothing will be able to replace the vision of a mother deer and fawn standing in your backyard. And the other lesson: GO FOR THE GREEN!

*Jayne Christiani*  
**Hosta Vista, Baby!**

**PS: GARDENERS LIKE TO SPEND ALL DAY IN THEIR BEDS!**



## Growing Hostas from Seed

**by Rob Mortko**

*Reprinted courtesy of the AHS Newsletter Exchange.*

Everyone seems to have their own technique for planting hosta seed, and yet there is general agreement on a number of key points.

Start the seeds in flats with a clear plastic dome (or similar high humidity setup). Wash the flats and use a sterile soilless mix to minimize fungal problems. Cover the seed lightly to a 1/8" to 1/4" depth. Germination typically occurs in 12 to 15 days. Target an air temperature of about 75°F (24°C). Heating mats can be useful when working in cooler basement settings. And don't forget to label if you are planting various hybrid crosses!

Timing on starting seed is a variable with some starting in October or November while others wait until February. Lighting is critical when gardening indoors (although not relevant to seed germination). Use supplemental

lighting (cool-white fluorescent tubes) to give 16-24 hours of daily lighting. Maintain the lights about 2" above the dome or (later) 2" above the plants.

Never let the seedlings dry out. Keep the soil moist but not soggy. Grow until the tops of the plants touch the dome. Then transplant (typically at the 2 or 3 leaf stage) and begin using a water soluble fertilizer. How much water soluble fertilizer you use will depend on how much you want to push the process.

Culling can be a painful process but most seedlings will be rather plain looking. Unfortunately many characteristics (other than color) take time to develop. Balance your culling habits with the number of seedlings you are managing.

Before moving seedlings to the spring garden, don't forget to harden them off - just like a tomato plant that was started inside.

Seed is available from a number of commercial sources. Seed can be stored in plastic photo film canisters and placed in the freezer until ready for planting.



## Great Expectations... Exceptional Photo



OHS member Ruth Kumpa submitted this photo of *Great Expectations in the Fall* in the 2016 AHS photo contest. It was announced in Volume 48 Number 2 of the AHS Hosta Journal 2018 that her photo has tied for first prize in category 5 Artistic Impression. **Congratulations Ruth!**



### American Hosta Society



#### Membership for Canadians

\$39 US/year / \$107 US/3 years.

**NEW! eMembership \$20 US/year**

<http://www.americanhostasociety.org>



## OHS General Meeting Report

Text **Russ Talbot**. Photos **Trish Symons** and **Pat Loy**

January 28th saw 42 Hosta enthusiasts meet at the Brookville Hall in Campbellville for the OHS General Meeting.

After signing in, members and guests had the opportunity to renew/buy memberships, and purchase tickets to the Hosta Forum and Bus Trip with the new OHS credit card reader.

Before the meeting got underway, everyone helped themselves to pizza, Glenn Wilson's famous Caesar Salad, and oodles of dessert goodies. This gave everyone a chance to mingle and talk hostas!

President Russ Talbot introduced the OHS Board members and asked for any vendors to introduce themselves as well.

After announcements regarding our participation in Milton's Seedy Saturday and the Peterborough Garden Show, Lynne Limpert shared details on the upcoming Hosta Forum and Russ talked about the OHS bus trip.

To break up the business part of the meeting, Trish Symons showed a couple of presentations on the gardens that we will be visiting on the bus trip, as well as pictures from her own gardens. Included also, were pictures from Kelly Williams gardens, where we will be visiting for our picnic in July. By the time the last picture was shown, everyone was dreaming of Spring!

In between Trish's presentations, Lynne spoke about the amendments to our by-laws and constitution and they were passed unanimously. Kelly also told everyone present about the upcoming survey that was going to be sent out to the membership.

Bob Leask introduced our speaker, John Kee, one of the founding members of the OHS. John regaled us with recollections of early events and hosta stories. As a newer member it was interesting to learn of some of our history as an organization.

After Keith Skanes thanked John, the meeting was closed, and everyone had a further opportunity to chat, socialize and eat more food.

The day was a fantastic opportunity for getting caught up with people we haven't seen all winter, and to make new acquaintances who share a passion for hostas.





## Garden Smarter Not Harder

By **Sandra L. Mason**

Unit Educator Horticulture/Environment University of Illinois Extension/Champaign County

Reprinted from the Tri-State Tribune, Spring 2018, the Newsletter of the Tri-State Hosta Society of NY, NJ, & CT

Here are some tips to have more fun and less fatigue in the garden:

- Avoid doing the same task for more than 30 minutes. Take regular breaks to give your parts a rest. If necessary, set a timer. Actually sit on those fancy benches we buy and enjoy the view.



*Don't forget to sit on those benches and enjoy the view.*

- Stretch before, during and after. Try yoga and improve your flexibility.
- Remember what your mom told you- "Stand up straight!" Maintain good posture at all times as you work.
- Lift objects by bending at the knees not bending your back.
- Hold items close to your body. One of my worst injuries occurred when I bought some bags of soil after work. Of course I had my business clothes on and my momma raised me right so I didn't want to get my clothes dirty. So I picked up the bags and I held them away from my body. I felt a twinge as though a rubber band had broken in my back.
- Keep an old shirt or coat in your vehicle for those unplanned shopping occasions. Or make sure you always have your garden slave around to carry bags.

- Avoid unnecessary twisting. Instead of shoveling soil or compost by digging and twisting to empty the shovel, move your feet instead. When raking, don't reach. Keep the center of gravity and movement close to your body. Move to the chore – Don't bring the chore to you.

Sometimes just finding the right tools makes gardening easier.

- Purchase pruners that fit your hand. When pruner handles are expanded completely they shouldn't go past your first knuckle. Many brands such as Felco offer pruners for large to small hands and even pruners for lefties.
- Check out the heavy duty gel knee pads available in the flooring section of lumber supply stores.
- Use a hand truck or dolly to move heavy bags of soil, mulch or fertilizer.
- Use a wheeled chair or "scoot seat" designed for garden use. If possible take it for a test drive. Some of them work better on concrete than they do in grass or mulch.
- Use a cart with big wheels. Small wheels do not roll well in mulch or on uneven surfaces.



*Use a cart with big wheels. (photos Marta Cepek)*

- Reserve wheelbarrows for light weight materials. Heavy items may shift in transit and cause you to twist your back.
- Enlist a garden buddy. Start an exchange program. Offer to work on their project this week and next week you both work on yours. It's amazing how much faster the work proceeds when you garden with a buddy.
- Stay healthy. Remember as you get older your body's maintenance crew takes longer breaks.

## Protecting Hostas from Frost Damage

**By Clarence Falstad III**

*Clarence Falstad III is involved in licensing and protection of intellectual property at Walters Gardens, Zeeland, MI. Reprinted from Hosta News Scapes, the Miami Valley Hosta Society newsletter courtesy of the AHS Newsletter Exchange.*

Hostas are amazingly resilient hardy perennials, but as many know their foliage can still succumb to occasional poorly timed frosts. The damage can leave them unsightly and vulnerable to disease. Symptoms from late spring or early fall frosts are similar. Most hostas are less susceptible to frosts in fall than in spring, and it is easier to protect against early fall frosts. There are several steps we can take to protect hosta plants from frost.

Unlike some tender annuals, hostas can take up to a few days to show symptoms from frost damage, but evidence may also start appearing the night of the frost. The first sign might be stiff, darken, almost brittle leaves. Indications the following morning can be more extreme. Once thawed you may see limp clumps with very dark, crinkled, frozen-lettuce-like leaves.

Expanded but still tightly rolled foliage is more resistant to frost than foliage that is completely unfurled. The tight buds that emerge early in the spring may still be able to withstand temperatures of much less than 32°F (0°C).

Because of the tolerance of hosta leaves, light frosts may not be noticed for a week or more, but could appear as burned leaf margins, leaf tips, or just the higher portion of unfurled leaves. Frost could affect just the surface of a leaf without penetrating to the



lower cells. They may show small yellow droplet-sized spots from water freezing on leaves, or just cold water sitting on foliage. In these minor cases the symptoms will manifest as darkened tissue, eventually becoming lighter yellow followed by brown and dried.

Understanding what occurs to the leaf is helpful in knowing what to do about it. As temperatures drop below freezing, water inside the plant cells begins to crystallize and expand. These water crystals are sharp, and the added pressure can rupture the cell membrane and wall. Once this perimeter barrier

becomes perforated cell moisture leaks out and the cell dies from dehydration.

The trick to avoiding damage is to prevent cellular water from freezing. Since water with a higher salt concentration freezes at a lower temperature, it's an advantage to establish plants with sufficient cellular moisture. The plant can move water around from the interior of the cells to the exterior, and in so doing protect the cells from

desiccation burning or rupturing.

Nutrition is also critical. Although excess nitrogen creates plants with soft growth that is more susceptible to frost, higher concentrations of potassium and phosphorus have proven to be an advantage in frost and winter tolerance. Potassium is also needed to control cell moisture and build strong cell walls.

Healthy established plants can tolerate temperatures of 28°F (-2°C) for short periods of time. Longer periods of several hours at the same temperature injure leaves.



## Steps to prepare plants for frost damage

Prevent damage by selecting less susceptible hostas. Some early emerging hostas varieties are notoriously prone to late spring frost damage, i.e., 'Lancifolia', H. Montana 'Aureomarginata' and 'Sagae'. Many gardeners have also noted that plants with lighter colored foliage are more susceptible to frost.

Select protective garden locations. Do not plant in low garden elevations that collect cold air. Areas where the soil may warm up faster and hostas may emerge earlier such as an open, south facing hillside are more likely to be hit by late spring freezes. Locate susceptible early-emerging hostas in micro-environments that do not get direct sunshine in the early spring. This will prevent the sun from warming the soil, thus slowing emergence and unfurling of foliage until air temperatures can be more easily maintained above the freezing point. If direct shade like that of a building is not possible, loose mulch spread liberally around the area will have about the same effect. The mulch can be removed once the leaves are poking through it.

Hostas in above ground containers tend to emerge earlier since the soil in the pot will warm up earlier with air temperatures. Keep plants mulched in early spring whether in pots or directly in the ground. Pots submerged in soil or mulch are less prone to the earlier warming.

Keep the plant well fertilized with phosphorus (the second number in a fertilizer sequence) and especially potassium (the last number). Do not use excessive nitrogen fertilizer later in the season; in most gardening regions fertilizers with the first number higher than 3 after July 15th would be excessive for what is necessary for healthy plants.

## Steps to avoid forecasted frost

Lay a cover directly over the plants. Preferably it should not be in contact with the leaves. Leaf tissue directly touching the cover is more prone to frost damage, especially if using plastic. Staking may be required to keep the cover from contacting leaves, or to keep it from crushing young tender spring foliage.

The purpose of this covering is to prevent the loss of radiation cooling, or the heat in the ground from going up and away from the plant tissue. The cover will trap the warmth of the soil that is usually greater in the fall than early spring before the soil temperatures have had an opportunity to elevate.

Cold air generally comes from higher in the atmosphere and drops down on calm nights. Drape the cover to meet snugly with the ground in order to prevent the cold air from invading the trapped warmer air underneath, and weigh it down to prevent the cover from blowing off over-night. Heavier coverings such as blankets, and even lighter weight layers when there is a chance of their getting wet, may require extra staking, especially for softer hosta leaves in the spring. Wooden stakes, lawn chairs or inverted, extra-large, plastic pots selectively placed over favorite hostas for additional protection make effective structures for supporting insulation. In the fall, taller scapes, or even very tall bent over scapes can help support covers.

Reemay® cloth is a very light and effective commercial frost cover. One of its advantages is that it allows enough light transmission to be left on hosta plants for a few weeks with no apparent detrimental effects. This spun-bonded material is also thin enough so not to hold water, and because it is a polymer it will not hold moisture and become



Display gardens in front – Greenhouses/sales area in back

Website is all set for pre-ordering all your Hosta & other easy-care perennials for shipping/pick-up

[www.gardensplus.ca](http://www.gardensplus.ca) - 705-742-5918

136 County Rd 4, Donwood / Peterborough, ON

Gardens & greenhouses will open for season 21 – May 11th –Wed-Sun  
Stay in touch by following us on Facebook / sign up for our newsletter



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moldy. Normally a single cover layer can provide 2 to 7 degrees of protection. Covers of plastic tarps or sheeting are not as efficient as newspaper, which is not as good at insulating as woven material such as bed sheets. Cardboard boxes make excellent frost armor, but metal cans are not advised. Plastic pots used in container-growing plants can also be used. Those pots with drainage holes may need to be plugged with newspaper for additional protection.

Two layers, such as a large plastic pot with an additional top layer of burlap, may guard against even lower temperatures. If plants are not too tall a few handfuls of dried tree leaves can provide yet more protection when covering the foliage.

Water is also effective in many ways. Keeping your garden well watered early the morning before a frost may actually allow for greater radiation warming from the sun (if your hosta beds get direct sun). A dry garden will hold less heat than a wet garden.

Irrigating during low-temperature hours can also help. The warmth in the water can warm the foliage and surrounding air. Although evaporation of water takes energy and will cool the surrounding area, water releases a tremendous amount of heat as it freezes. Since hostas can tolerate (especially mature fall foliage) some temperatures below freezing, the heat given off during the freezing process can provide additional warmth as well. If you are not able to water your garden continuously during forecasts of frost, even short intermittent periods of a few minutes irrigation during the most critical period will help by keeping water on the foliage.

If your hostas are damaged by early fall frosts it is usually not critical, and you may just be able to do a normal fall clean up. If the frost is quite early

however, it may affect next year's growth. John Kulpa (Detroit, MI) discovered that mowing off foliage early to get a jump on his fall cleaning caused his plants to be smaller than they had ever been the following season. The danger here is that the plants would normally be sending the nutrients and starches from the leaves back into the crown for winter storage. If leaves are damaged, frozen or removed too early it may prevent the plant from stowing its needed reserves.

Plants injured by late spring frosts are more devastating but seldom are life-threatening for the clump. Most older plants have secondary eyes or secondary flushes that can develop if the entire first flush is destroyed. However, plants will not be as large as they would if the first flush was undamaged. The larger concern is not the actual frost damage but some secondary bacterial or fungal infection that may begin in the damaged tissue and not be arrested before the entire clump is killed.

To protect against secondary diseases the foliage should be cleaned down to healthy tissue if the injury is extensive. Some hosta growers cut the damaged leaves off at the ground or even run over them with



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a lawn mower. When cutting even damaged tissue be careful not to spread other diseases or hosta viruses. The foliage can be picked off by hand, but tends to be rather slimy. Leaving extensively damaged frozen leaves on clumps to dry can restrict the new flush of leaves from emerging causing trapped or distorted growth. If the injury is limited to the tips of the leaves or small spots and the foliage has not fallen down on the ground, you may allow the foliage to dry up on its own and just monitor the plant for other diseases.

We are still learning about frost or cold tolerance differences among hosta cultivars. Plants pre-conditioned to cold are frequently better adapted to survive early fall frosts with less injury. Spring tolerance can be the result of how emerged growth is. However, in general, hostas with lighter colored foliage and those white or yellow portions tend to be more susceptible to frost. Even so, we can still take several actions to ensure a healthy and happy hosta garden.

## Rainbow's End—Better than a Pot of Gold!

*Reprinted from the Georgia Hosta Notes, courtesy of the AHS Newsletter Exchange. Photo: Nancy Gardebrecht Lakewood, WI*

One of the most storied myths we learned as children was that there was a pot of gold at the end of every rainbow. Not only that, but that the pot of gold was guarded by a tricky leprechaun. In our wonderful world of hostas, however, it turns out that in lieu of a pot of gold, there is an exciting little hosta at the end of our rainbow named 'Rainbow's End'. H. 'Rainbow's End' was discovered as a sport in a tissue culture run of H. 'Obsession' by that master hosta leprechaun, Hans Hanson, who couldn't help but notice the dazzling mix of colors - clear dark green leaves with very streaky bright cream-to-yellow centers. It would be a challenge to find any two leaves exactly alike due to the wildly variable streaking.

Registered in 2005, H. 'Rainbow's End's clump size is listed as 11" high and 21" wide. Like its sport parent, it has 16"-19" showy burgundy scapes sporting lavender flowers to further dress up this already dressed-to-the-hilt hosta. The elliptic-shaped leaves are registered as 6" long by 4" wide. H. 'Rainbow's End' is a somewhat slow-growing hosta but it is well worth the wait to get it to full size. It grows quite well in containers and makes a beautiful little specimen plant, whether in a container or in the ground. Yep, for us hopelessly addicted hosta addicts, H. 'Rainbow's End' is better than a pot of gold!



*Hosta 'Rainbow's End'*



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# Ontario Hosta Society



**When:** Sunday June 10, 2018

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. sharp from  
Landscape Ontario in Milton

**Cost:** We have managed to keep the  
price at \$40.00 again this year!

**DON'T FORGET YOUR LUNCH!**

We will have pop, juice, and water with us on the bus.

## Itinerary

**Lidia Pezzi in Brampton**

There are over 130 different varieties of hosta here in a Peel Village property. Some of the hosta are more than 15 years old.

**Joseph Cavello also in Brampton**

Joseph has more than 200 hosta on this 239 foot deep lot in Brampton. He uses lots of hosta at the front of his borders which he says keeps them neat and tidy all season long.

**Sandra Leah in Mono Township**

Sandra's gardens sit on approximately 3 acres of land with a large pond. She has 400 different varieties and 70 different mini and dwarf conifers. Sandra has graciously opened up her gardens for our lunch spot for the day.

**Anna and Bill Barger in Neustadt**

Anna and Bill have over 750 hosta and have had some registered last year.

**Riverbend Gardens in Wroxeter**

We will finish up our tour with a stop at Shirley and Allan Koch's **Riverbend Gardens** to fill our need to feed the Hostaholic in us and to break up back to Landscape Ontario, we will stop in at **Doug Starret's** lovely gardens for a quick walk about.

To reserve your seat please contact Sandra at [sandrasherbalife@aol.com](mailto:sandrasherbalife@aol.com)  
or telephone her toll free at **1-866-742-7155**

Please get your seat on board by June 1st everyone.

**SEE YOU ON THE BUS !**

*Got Your Seat on the Bus?*





# 8TH ANNUAL HOSTA FORUM

Sunday, April 22, 2018

Glencairn Golf Club  
9807 Regional Road 25, Halton Hills, ON L9T 2X7

9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. - *(Registration Begins at 8:30 a.m.)*

**Take Advantage of Our Early Bird Rates.**

**Bonus: Buy Your Tickets By The Early Bird Deadline  
For Your Name To Be Entered In A Special Draw!**

**No Ticket Sales at Door So Get Your Tickets Soon!**

OHS Members - \$55.00 until March 1st - \$60.00 after March 1st  
Non-OHS Members - \$60.00 until March 1st - \$65.00 after March 1st

**Bob Leask**

Founding Member  
&  
Director of the  
Ontario Hosta Society

*"Hot New Hostas and  
Where Do They  
Come From"*

**Charlie Dobbin**

Zoomer AM740 Saturday  
Morning Garden  
Talk Show Host,  
Past Co-host, ONE GARDEN, TWO  
LOOKS & Owner of design and  
horticultural consulting company,  
Garden Solutions

*"Gardening In A Changing Climate"*

**Reggie Millette**

Founding President of  
Quebec Hosta and  
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&  
Accomplished Author

*"Hostas: Grow Them As  
Per Species Habits"*

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~ Live & Silent Auctions ~ Draws/Prizes ~

~ Continental Breakfast ~ Delicious Lunch ~ Refreshments ~

**Please state dietary restrictions when ordering ticket(s)**

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