

Garden Party

The Garden of **Paul and Uli Zammit** surrounds a very small, cape cod style home built in 1952 and is built on the grounds of what used to be the market gardens for Toronto. There is sand, as deep as you wish to shovel, which has been amended every year since 1987.

The garden has evolved over the years and didn't really start to take shape until the deck and arbour were built in 1992. It quickly changed into the plant collection that exists there today, interspersed with attractive containers. The backyard is primarily a shade garden filled with many varieties of Hostas and other perennials. The deck garden is wall to wall to sky, containers filled with annuals, succulents, tropical plants and vines. The courtyard immediately in front of the deck is home to a selection of herbs and more succulents.

The sunny front yard, a first place winner in the City of Toronto garden contest, is a mixture of a xeriscaped rock garden and an assortment of perennials including ornamental grasses, daylilies and anything unusual or beautiful that strikes our fancy. In the very simplest terms, this is the eclectic garden of two passionate plant people.



A Trio of Terrific Hostas

by Virginia Hildebrandt

I think if I had to choose a favourite hosta of the **PAST** it would be Krossa Regal. It can take a lot of abuse, has very little slug damage and poor growing conditions and still it will give you a fabulous plant. The plant can grow to 33 in high and 70 in wide with a vase-like shape. It reminds me of an elm tree. The leaves are heavy, blue-grey in colour with good substance. The flowers are mauve and can be held on scapes 3-4 feet tall. It's alter ego is Regal Splendor, which has many of the same characteristics but with a creamy-white margin, that can vary in width.

(picture of Krossa Regal curtesy of Plants Delights.com)



One of my **PRESENT** favourites is June, a Halcyon derivative. It took me 3 years to clean up the sample I was given to clone, but it was an absolute treasure once it was done. This is a medium sized plant with a gold center and a blue edge. The substance is great and therefore slug resistant. The mound can be 3 feet wide and almost a foot and a half tall. When healthy it is very vigorous. In 2001 it was the AHS Hosta of the year. Dave Barham has a streaked form of Halcyon, that he has been testing as it grows. so ask me again in the Spring.



FUTURE must have include Hacksaw, which Doug Beilstein showed us at the February meeting. It was a green mini-hosta with elongated leaves and almost no stem. It looked tough, almost like cactus. **Another new one** I like is **Blue Mouse Ears**. It too is a mini with blue-green leaves round like a mouse. The leaves cup a bit and it too seems slug resistant. I planted a baby one in the garden last fall, so ask me again in the Spring.

