



Save the dates

**Picnic & Member's Plants
Auction**

Sunday 7 July 2019

**Garden Tours / Shopping
Trips**

To be announced

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 15 September



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Hosta Garden Dreamin' on Such a Winter's Day

It's early March, and my garden is still trapped beneath ice & snow, like most of yours, I'm sure. Anxious for spring to arrive, I'm Hosta garden dreamin', doing the usual poring over of garden photos from last season, and reading and posting on various garden forums and Facebook groups.

I'm also, for the very first time, enjoying some new hosta seedlings indoors! This is thanks to our amazing OHS January meeting theme: Growing Hosta from Seed! If you weren't able to join us, you missed a great presentation by Bob Leask, packed with lots of useful information to make us all feel confident about seed growing in the winter. Bob even brought in trays of seedlings in various growing mediums and shared practical examples and various tricks and tools. Following the presentation, Bob answered questions and many members shared hosta seeds and tips from their experiences. We also raffled off an indoor greenhouse, donated by Lynne & Norm Limpert; congratulations to the winner, Christine Williams!

The OHS Board members were introduced at the meeting and we were also able to fill some open roles! We have a great team this year! You can find the names and email addresses of our OHS Executives on page 2. We have several vacancies, so if you are

interested in volunteering as board member or as support for the events, please reach out, we'd love to have you!

2019 Events

Sunday July 7th, 2019: Picnic & Member's Plants Auction (For those of you donating, we recommend potting up a month in advance, so the plant has time to settle in prior to the auction. More instructions to follow closer to the picnic date.)

Dates TBD: Garden Tours & Shopping Trips (given that we are without a Bus Tour Organizer, we are working with the vendors to put together an alternate option for our members – stay tuned!)

Sunday September 15th, 2019: Fall AGM, with speaker.

Planning has also begun for the OHS 25th Anniversary celebration in 2020!

Connie Pojasok
OHS President



ONTARIO HOSTA SOCIETY



We are building a brand new website!

OntarioHostaSociety.com



In the meantime,
*follow our OHS
Facebook Group!*

Membership



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

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 or 4 times a year. PDF copies of past issues of the OHS newsletter will be made available in the Members section of the OHS website.

Article Submissions

Send your hosta-related tips, articles, and photos to:
Newsletter@OntarioHostaSociety.com

Advertising

Business card-sized ads are only \$100 per publication year. Please contact our Treasurer Keith Skanes kiethskanes@hotmail.com

Welcome!

Our newest members

Brenda	Lewis
Mike	Ginies
Richard	Hiiuvain
Mary Lou & Alex	McEachern

OHS Executive

President – **Connie Pojasok**

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Bus Tour Organizer – **VACANT**

Newsletter – **VACANT ***

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bennet5@eastlink.ca

Eastern OHS President – **Annic Lavertu**

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** Farewell! This is my last newsletter for the OHS. I am grateful for all the wonderful friendships (and hostas) that have come into my life as a result of editing this newsletter for the last four years. My only regret is the insurmountable distance. All the best – Marta Cepek*

2018 September AGM

Photos by Trish Symons



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2019 OHS Photography Competition

Get your cameras ready! There will be prizes for winners of each class! Winners will be announced at our September 15th meeting.

Class Titles

- Class 1 **Serenity in the Garden:** *Hostas in a Garden or Landscape*
- Class 2 **Partners:** *Hostas with Companion Plants*
- Class 3 **Big, Bold, Beautiful:** *a mature clump of a large Hosta*
- Class 4 **Tiny But Tough:** *Mini or Small Hosta(s)*
- Class 5 **Never Met a Hosta I Couldn't Love:** *your favourite Hosta*
- Class 6 **Creativity:** *a garden photo to include Hosta. Digital Enhancements permitted. Black & White or Colour. Think "artwork".*
- Class 7 **Light up the Shade:** *featuring gold, yellow or white hosta(s)*
- Class 8 **Fabulous Floral:** *closeup of Hosta Flower(s)*



Rules & Guidelines:

1. Submissions are due by September 1st, 2019
2. Open to Members of the Ontario Hosta Society. You may enter up to two photos per class.
3. Photo has been taken in the past two years leading up to September 2019 & has not been submitted to our contest in the past.
4. Printed size: 5 by 7 inches, at least 300dpi, ideally printed to the edge with no border showing
5. Photos are to be in colour, except Class 6, which can be colour or Black & White
6. The hard copy will be judged.
7. The images may be shown on our Website, Facebook, Newsletter, projected at a meeting or used for other methods of promoting our Society. Credit will be given to the photographer. Each photographer will retain ownership of his/her work.
8. Send a hard copy of photos to be judged to:
9. Send a digital copy of your images to:
10. Securely attach the following information to the back of each photo and include the same in your email containing the digital image.

OHS Photography Competition
100 Organ Crescent
Hamilton, Ontario L8T 1Y9

bradcanal@hotmail.com

Include subject line: **OHS PHOTO CONTEST**

Your name

Address

Telephone number

Email address

Class number for the photo

Name of the Hosta(s) in the photo. In the case of a tie, where one photo is missing the name of the hosta, the winner will be the photo that includes the name.



Photos: Trish Symons

Let's Talk!

We all love our gardens! We all have the same issues at one time or another: we lose plants, we replace plants, we weed, and weed, and weed. We are out there at 6 am, watering or planting. We are out there at 8 pm, taking that one last look of the day to make sure that all of our babies are happy. The chipmunks have a way of knowing that we planted something that morning, because chances are, they have up-ended it by evening. We fight the bugs, and the heat, the heavy winds and rains, all for the sake of gardening. How many times have you put on your rain coat or windbreaker to take care of "just one more thing?"



H. montana Albomarginata. Photo: Irene B.

So, if you are reading this newsletter, there is a very good chance that you are as passionate about hostas as I am and withstand all of the above noted conditions. To my mind, it seems that the longer you collect hostas, the more information you want to acquire about hostas. And very similar to getting older, the more information that you collect, you realize the less you know.

I am stuck on—dare I say it—the damned *montana* family. I have moved around several in the family, trying to find that ideal location. More shade. Less shade. More water. Less water. Rich organic soil. Sandy or clay soil. Planted in the ground. Leave them in a pot. I have tried it all. The fact that they seem to be slow growers, at least for me, doesn't help the situation. And yet most of them are outstanding specimens, so why wouldn't I want to try to have them in my gardens.

Last year I was given a lovely large specimen of

Niagara Falls. (Sorry, M, but it didn't make it through the winter.) Also last year, Angel Falls seemed to be the hosta to buy. I planted it in what I thought were very neutral conditions. Soil not too rich, not too sandy. Morning light for a few hours. Watered weekly if we didn't get rain. A month into the growing season, it was about a half an inch tall. I am happy to report that it is now about one inch tall. I

honestly don't know why I am allowing it to take up valuable real estate in my gardens. I have so many hostas that still need to be planted and could certainly get a couple of small or medium hostas there, but there Miss Angel Falls remains. We'll see what happens next year. (*By the time this article is published, she is long gone!*)

The good news is that I was able to acquire H. First Love this year, which is very similar to Angel Falls. The bad news is that it, too, is of the *montana* family. It has the reverse markings of *montana Aureomarginata*. Speaking of which, that little sucker I planted two years ago, and this year it got dug out of the garden and two different hostas planted there.

Hosta Vista, Baby!
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I put it in a pot with rich soil and lo and behold, it's growing! Let me clarify—by "growing" I mean that it is now two inches tall as the season winds down.

You wonder why I bother and the simple answer is I can't help myself. I love the look of them. First Love was purchased as a fairly substantial plant, albeit a single eye. We'll see if it comes back in the Spring, but I did plant it in a spot I don't normally plant: under my crab apple tree. I have read articles over the years that hostas love to be planted near apple trees. Something about the organics of rotting apples enriching the soil, I guess. I am not a scientist, but I do love to experiment. We'll see what happens.

If you have been following my articles, you know that I give each variety a "four times" rule. If it dies on me by the fourth time, I don't buy it again. It is too much time and effort for a single hosta when I have so

many others that require care. *H.*

Paradigm was on it's last and final hoorah. Last year, early in the season, I planted it under the crab apple tree. Within the same year, it shot up three new eyes. This year it's beginning to look outstanding. Who knew?

My entire collection of Lakeside hostas are planted under the crab apple. I own a Lakeside Paisley Print that has been there for five years now. The mature size is listed as a Small hosta at 10" x 30", but I honestly think it should be listed as a Miniature. Oh, the leaves are lovely and large, but it just doesn't want to get any bigger. I have had people comment on how BIG my Paisley Print is, compared to what they have at home. Is this a result of being under the crab apple tree?

If there is anyone out there was a large clump of this plant, please, I urge you, share your secrets. We would all benefit with a little bit of insight for this

plant. I don't know one person who has a clump anywhere near the size listed by the Hosta Registry. It is the **2019 Hosta of the Year** and no doubt there are hosta collectors that specifically purchase the HOTY if they don't already own it. There may be a lot of people next year scratching their heads as to why it was picked in the first place. No question that it is outstandingly beautiful, but *grow*, dammit!

Getting back to the *montana* family, the only thing I haven't been able to try is to plant any in the family near a body of water like a pond, stream, or lake. I'm wondering if that's the secret for this species of hostas. We do have a pond, but not near the gardens. And as many of you know, I hate frogs, so unfortunately, I will personally never find out.

Jayne Christiani
Hosta Vista, Baby!



H. Lakeside Paisley Print

PS: Divine Intervention happens quite frequently in my life. I finished this article this morning, but I usually sit on my articles for a couple of days before submitting them. Even though I was closed for business, I had a customer come in this afternoon specifically looking for *montana Aureomarginata*. She told me of the one she already owns and didn't want to divide it. She said her own is absolutely HUGE and BEAUTIFUL. I laughed and

told her about this article. What I did discover in my conversation with her is that she lives on the water. Is this the secret to growing the montanas effectively? Free of charge, I gave her the one pot that I mentioned earlier...the little 2" hosta. She said if it grows, she'll send me a picture, and I said, "Please don't do that. I don't want to see it ever again!" And we both laughed. About a month later she sent me a picture, and it's a good 6 to 8 inches tall! Following is a picture of her own outstanding specimen.

Starting Hostas from Seeds

by **Randy Goodwin**

Article & photos courtesy of the AHS Newsletter Exchange

Seed Selections

Decide what you want to create:

1. Variegation, need splashed pod parent, a 7 year process with edged, solid and medio form development needed.



2. For yellows, blues, or distinctive forms, solid pod parents needed; edged and center variegations produce lethal or green seedlings only.

Collecting, Cleaning and Storing Seed



1. Collect seed only after mature, i.e. 40 days and 40 nights
2. Timing differs from one to another, i.e. sieboldianas vs. summer vs. late bloomers
3. Dry pods with name tags
4. Crushing pod helps speed process
5. Separate seeds from pods, then dewing for viability
6. Stratification not necessary, but cool storage is recommended for viability
7. Create a storage container, paper or plastic, with identification

Containers and Mediums

1. Sterilized container; 'Clorox' and microwaving
2. Use sterile non organic planting medium
3. Use of Michigan peat or any soil based medium, prohibited

4. Medium examples: Pro Mix, or peat moss, vermiculite, perlite, thru 3-2-1 mixtures
5. Moisten medium prior to planting
6. Use boiled water to kill fungus, fungus gnats, and algae



Planting Process

1. Plant in a prepared trench, then cover
2. Plant in a scatter, then cover with more medium
3. Use bone meal with seeds to increase germination
4. Coverage should be 3 times depth of seed
5. Uncovered seeds have roots unable to penetrate soil
6. Water planted seeds after planting
7. Cover with plastic dome
8. Place in plastic baggie

Lighting

1. Use fluorescent shop lights
2. 24/7 light cycle or timed with timer from 18 on, to 12/12 also 8/4/8/4 cycle

Germination

1. From 3 to 14 days, 7 average, with an average 33%
2. Germination rate, germination is irregular
3. Water from bottom, deters salts built up and pathogens,
4. With ¼ strength soluble fertilizer roots can sit in water for extended time
5. Room temperature should be maintained between 60-70 degrees
6. Damp off is a constant problem; use of Benlate or Benomyl in a liquid spray deters after planting
7. Use of plastic bags does lead to mildew with closed environment

Culling and Decision Making



1. For splashes, thin after 1st or 2nd leaf, eliminating the greens
2. For solids and forms, keep most and cull only after 2nd year.
3. Up potting helps selected seedling gain size, blooming in 1st year (scapes should be cut off to preserve seedling from energy drain and death.)

4. Use deep containers for root growth
5. Use a tool that creates a deep hole in porous medium
6. Grow in containers until safe to plant outdoors
7. Continue culling until the word **DISTINCTION** or **UNIQUE** applies.



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2019 Hosta of the Year

Every year since 1996 the American Hosta Growers Association (AHGA) has named a **Hosta of the Year**. The selected hosta must grow well in all regions of the country, be widely available in sufficient quantity, and retail for about \$15.00 in its year of selection.

Lakeside Paisley Print

Registered by Mary Chastain (2006)

Small: 10" tall x 20" wide

Lavender flowers on 24" cream scapes

Parentage: "seedling" x "seedling"



Heart-shaped, lightly puckered leaves with wide wavy green borders and a creamy-yellow center that shoots out from the petioles like lightning, creating a "feather" pattern. Lakeside Paisley Print is a slow grower, but once established it has good substance and is an absolute show-stopper.

Photos: Ann Frederking



South Western OHS

SWOHS has been very busy over the past few months planning an exciting 2019 year!!!!

2019 Events

- Watch for the reveal of our **brand new website!**
- **SWOHS Spring Social – 27 April 2019**
 - our newest event
 - a chance to reconnect after the winter season
 - discussions on hosta care as it pertains to their growing season
- **Bus Tour** – SWOHS is finalizing all of the details for an exciting, once in a lifetime bus trip to:

Land Of The Giants Hosta Farm
in Milton Wisconsin.
Watch for further details soon.

Eastern OHS

2019 Events

Some dates are still TBD. Please check the [website](#).

26-28 April	Peterborough Garden Show
May	Garden Art Workshop
June	Plant Sale & BBQ Lunch
13 July	Garden Tour
21 September	AGM with Guest Speaker
Visit our website: www.EasternOHS.ca	

Members of OHS, South Western OHS and Eastern OHS can attend each others' meetings.

For members who are asking about a 2019 OHS Hosta Forum: due to a late Easter and other scheduling issues, we will not hold a Hosta Forum this year. If you would like to be involved in the planning for 2020, please contact the Executive (see page 2).

Gardeners, Collectors, Splitters, Clumpers

By Ray Rodgers

Reprinted courtesy of the AHS Newsletter Exchange.

The exercise described here is meant strictly for fun. Regardless of how you rate yourself, your membership in your local hosta society will not be revoked, you may still be asked to serve on the Board, and your smiling face at each of the monthly meetings will continue to be appreciated.

The first phase of this self-assessment is to determine whether your gardening traits make you more of a gardener or a collector.

The purest of “**Gardeners**” have a predetermined place for every purchase and every plant must be in its place. Planting three or more of a particular variety often makes good design sense. Such gardeners have a seemingly never-ending thirst, or possibly an addiction, to work in their gardens. Gardeners typically are not concerned with exactly how many hostas they have, and are not terribly concerned about labeling or keeping track of plant purchases in any way. Their primary concern is to possess diverse plantings, providing ever-changing seasonal appeal.

Gardeners that join hosta societies often gradually

move at least slightly towards becoming collectors, while still retaining the seasonal beauty of their gardens.

“**Collectors**” do not make purchases based on need. In the mind of the most avid collectors, there is always room for more hostas, even when available space dictates otherwise. In their minds, there are friends, neighbors and relatives’ yards to relegate the less desirable hostas, creating space for more exciting varieties. More so than gardeners, collectors have a hard time resisting the lure of newer introductions. At least on occasion, collectors are more willing to exceed their price comfort zone for



“must have” hostas. When doing so, they may choose not to share the purchase price with their spouse. A collector would rather purchase three different varieties than three of one variety.

Collectors may do what is required to display their hostas well, but when given a choice, will often opt for another buying trip or the opportunity to visit someone else’s garden, rather than work in their own.

Such collectors most often keep track of all hosta purchases, usually in some sort of hard-copy or electronic spreadsheet. At any time, collectors typically know at least approximately how many hostas they have, especially during the early years of their addiction. To the most avid hosta collector, a good companion plant would be another hosta.

Those that start out as true collectors, find it difficult to spend very much of their available funds on other types of plant material. In my opinion, gardeners that become collectors are more apt to have beautiful gardens than those of us that start out as collectors.

On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 exhibiting only traits of the purest gardener and 10 being the most avid collector), where are you? For the sake of this exercise, let’s say the person exhibits some traits of both the gardener and the collector, but lean a bit more towards the right. Let’s rank this person as a **7**.

Gardener							Collector			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

Through the eyes of this long-time hosta lover and admirer of great gardens, a **6** or **7** is optimal.



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Regardless of how you have rated yourself to this point, there are two other traits for consideration. Gardeners as well as collectors can be “**Splitters**,” “**Clumpers**,” or somewhere in between.

When “**Splitters**” purchase double or multi-eyed hostas, their mind eventually gets around to dividing. Sometimes it is right away, sometimes the action happens the following year. For these folks, more is better than big! Splitters are quick with the knife when it comes to sharing, trading, selling, or feel the need for a hosta to have a presence in another location. Newer hosta fanciers often consider dividing as a way to quickly increase their total number of hostas. Some splitters don’t know, or choose to ignore the fact, that unlike iris and daylilies, hostas do not need to be divided.

In contrast, “**Clumpers**” are basically the exact opposite. They take great joy in nurturing their hostas into large mature clumps. For these folks, bigger is truly better than more! When clumpers feel a particular hosta is not sited for optimal growth, they would rather move the entire clump than chop it up. Clumpers don’t make great trading partners.

On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 always having a reason to divide hostas, and 10 almost never wanting to divide a hosta), where are you? For this part of the assessment, let’s consider the person as an **8**.

Splitter							Clumper			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

In my opinion, single clumps grown to perfection are far more impressive than multiple smaller plantings of the same variety. Yet, dividing is certainly recommended for hostas that are sporting, reverting, or to a lesser extent experiencing center clump dieback. Thusly, I would consider something in the **7** to **9** range as being ideal.

So, based on the example, the fictitious person is rated as a **7** on the Gardener / Collector scale and an **8** on the Splitter / Clumper scale. Combined, this person would be a **7/8**.

What are your numbers? Keep in mind that no matter where you rate yourself today, your numbers may change as your gardening experiences continue to evolve.

The Beauty of Maple Trees

On a hot July day, with the breezes gently kissing your overheated flesh; sitting under the plentiful branches of a maple trees brings relief from the blazing sun. The birds are quiet in the branches above...

No, this is definitely not the beginning of a romance novel.

There is no doubt that maple trees can be extremely beautiful and majestic. We are blessed with towering maples that grace our drive. We also have perfectly formed round maple trees that have been clipped by Mother Nature. They look as if a Master Gardener is out there daily snipping extremely large topiaries. Simply beautiful!

BUT the downside to maple trees is that they send little feeder roots to the top of the soil. I can't tell you how many times I have heard about an area in a backyard where nothing grows, not even weeds. Do you have a maple tree? I ask. Why, why yes we do! Good luck with that!

Last winter I bought an originator's stock hosta from the States. It was shipped in extremely rich composted material. Since I didn't know where I was going to plant it, I left it on the ground beside the box where I keep hosta stock. It was there about four months before I extended a garden. Not only did it have to be wrestled off the ground, but when I tried to take it out of the pot, the fine roots were so thick and matted that they had actually formed a pot within a pot. The maple roots had lined the two gallon pot to form a perfect basket. I had to take scissors to it and cut it off. Thankfully, my young plant was still growing within and is now residing in the extended garden.

And speaking of the box where I keep hosta stock. It is 8' wide by 55' long. At the time, I chose the spot because of the maple trees. Lovely relief from blazing sun, and in the Fall when the maples drop their leaves, I have an instant blanket for winter cover. I got in 12 yards of garden mix to fill the box. If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plan. I stupidly thought that I could dig little trenches and plant all my hostas for overwintering.

When I realized how much work that actually was, I decided to put the pots in the trenches and bank each row with soil. Worked great that first year! I would be hard pressed to say that I lost even one hosta over that winter.

However, the following year, when I tried to dig the trenches, I was met with this mass of roots that could have been cut out into 2'x4' squares and used as front door mats. Live and learn. Or one would think.

The year after, I decided to put in a new garden and you guessed it, under a maple tree. I put in about 60 hostas and right in the centre, a concrete statue that had been hidden away until I had the perfect spot for her. I was told by my hubby that he was only going to move it once, so I better get it right the first time. To say she is heavy is an understatement, and as an aside, I am no longer allowed to buy concrete anything!

Things were growing along tickety boo for a couple of years, and then came the mild winter when I lost about 40 of those hostas. I thought for the longest time that it was weather related, until I finally got around to filling the empty spots. Lo and behold, I can't get a shovel in the ground. Roots!

So now I have this lovely garden that is looking not so stunning anymore. It has about 20 hostas, which have obviously found a niche between rocks or something in the ground that is preventing maple roots from invading their territory. For a few years now, I look at that garden and scratch my head. It has been suggested that I replace the soil, but frankly, this body is too old to do that every couple/three years.

It may take a while, but I have finally learned this lesson. I can plant hostas right up to the trunks of most other trees, but I stay away from the maples. I have become so diligent in this, that I have actually refused to sell hostas to customers specifically looking to plant under a maple tree where nothing grows. When I explain why, they are thrilled with the knowledge. A couple of benches look great under a maple, and it's the perfect spot to sit on a hot summer's day.

Jayne Christiani
Hosta Vista, Baby!

Bill's "Hidden Pot" Trick

By Ray Rodgers

Reprinted courtesy of the AHS Newsletter Exchange.

I recently came across an article authored by Bill Jarvis, a Houston, Texas hobbyist / hybridizer of daylilies, entitled **Bill's "Hidden Pot" Trick**, see

<http://www.ofts.com/bill/hidpot.html>.

I'm guessing most of you reading this are thinking Bill's article is about placing potted plants in the garden to shield them from aggressive tree roots and/or voles, as this is a trick often used by hosta enthusiasts. If so, you are incorrect.

Bill's use of plastic nursery pots is unlike any I can remember hearing of. Although the writing specifically pertained to daylilies, the same basic principles could apply to other plants, including hostas.

He purchased a quantity of 5-gallon black plastic pots, cut off the bottom

2/3 of each, which left a circular plastic ring about 4-5 inches deep (see picture). He then placed a ring around each individual clump of daylilies, sinking it about half way into the dirt. When finished, the daylilies looked like they were growing in pots which had been sunk in the ground.

I'm guessing most hosta gardeners wouldn't like this appearance, but with a layer of mulch outside the rings, combined with seasonal foliage maturation, the rings would virtually disappear.

Bill's stated advantages include:

- When watering daylilies, water would run down to the lower places in the bed resulting in uneven distribution. The ring around the plant now prevents the water from leaving the area where the roots are concentrated. Note: Even after a good rain, the root zone under some hostas' foliage often remains dry.
- In the spring, Bill liked to give his lilies a boost by applying a tea made from fish emulsion and other organic nutrients. This liquid is applied to the roots of each clump individually and if applied too fast, would drain away from the plant before it could sink into the

soil. He now can just dump in the required amount quickly and go on to the next plant. The ring keeps the formula from draining away and it sinks right down to the roots.

- According to Bill, when a daylily becomes infected by crown rot, completely soaking the roots with the systemic fungicide Subdue is necessary to save the plant. The ring allows him to quickly make sure the roots get completely drenched.
- The final benefit is to keep the mulch from getting too close to the plant. Note: Keeping mulch away from the base of hostas helps to prevent Crown Rot and/or Petiole Rot.



If not receptive to purchasing 5-gallon pots, rings cut from smaller pots can be used for small and mini hostas.

For those of you that are willing to try this technique on just a few plants, I suggest first trying this on hostas that are believed to need just a little extra attention to grow well. Also, those gardening on slopes may find this method particularly advantageous.

A number of gardeners save plastic nursery pots for various reasons and would likely be happy to share.



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Dawn Golloher has been a member of the OHS since the beginning