



MICKFIELD HOSTAS



As the 2018 show season draws to a close for us...
We head down into deepest Essex to Hyde Hall. This year the [RHS Hyde Hall Flower Show](#) will be held over 5 days from Wednesday 1st to Sunday 5th August. It is a great show and well worth visiting, we hope to see you there.

July is a crazy month with two major shows following one after the other. It gives us very little time in between, so planning is very important. Unfortunately, our ancient computer, which powered our labelling system, died before Gardeners' World in June. This gave us another headache and our temporary solution is not fully waterproof - we do apologise to anyone who now has a 'fuzzy' label but we didn't have any time to research a replacement mid-season.

Trying to predict what will attract the eye of visitors to the shows is impossible but experience helps enormously. We have still been unprepared for the excitement caused by our hanging baskets. We have sold so many miniature and small varieties to visitors inspired to try it for themselves. We have even had a major retailer asking us where we source our hanging basket stands! I expect the supplier of the small plastic baskets might have been overwhelmed with the sudden interest in their product. I have had customers actually looking online whilst at my stand and buying them there and then, before selecting the plants to go in them - how keen is that?

After some consideration and cost calculation, Roy has decided to take on some commissions over the winter, so if



Hampton Court Palace Flower Show 2018

A scorcher of a week... click on the image to view.



Tatton Park Flower Show 2018

Wow, another Gold... click on the image to view.

Hanging basket stands

A 'handmade by Roy' hanging basket stand will cost you **£500**, with a 10% deposit of **£50** at the time of ordering. The balance will be due when we call to arrange delivery, which will be around the end of

you were one of the folks interested in buying a stand - see opposite for more details.

Nursery update

It has been an extremely testing time to be doing anything in the garden with the weather so hot and dry. We have been constantly watering the sales plants in the poly tunnels - this is really not an ideal location but it's what we have for now. Interestingly, all the ground grown *Hosta* are looking great, you don't have to go down far to find moisture in our area at the moment. This is why we always advise customers to water their plants in well and then treat them meanly to encourage deeper rooting. Constant watering simply encourages the plant to shallow root, which can be quite a problem when we get a prolonged dry spell. You may find your ground grown *Hosta* looking a little stunted but you can be reasonably reassured they will survive and come back looking great next year.

Hosta really are amazing plants and you are finding that out too. We have had so many customers telling us how well their plants are doing - much better than we are in the heat anyway. Although it isn't great gardening weather, we can still all enjoy our open spaces and make the most of the summer.

Speak soon,

Team Mickfield Hostas

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February, ready for the new season.

Numbers will be limited.

If you are interested please get in touch as soon as possible to secure one.

Either [email](#) or call 01449 711576 to arrange.



Our sturdy hanging basket stands are strong enough to carry up to four quite large, heavy, baskets or several smaller ones, as you will be able to see in our [display videos](#) this season.