



MICKFIELD HOSTAS



Hosta 'Paul's Glory' in the centre, flanked by *H.* 'Bressingham Blue' and *H.* 'Blue Umbrellas'

We're up to date!

Our website is now up to date with the [availability list](#), and [search page](#), for 2018. We did feel the need to increase a few prices, and a few we reduced, but at least 90% remain unchanged from 2015.

We will have a few new varieties available this year but our main focus, as ever, is on garden worthy plants. We have re-stocked lots of old favourites as many were getting limited in number, including [H. 'Paul's Glory'](#), our featured cultivar this month.

A key theme for our exhibits this year is celebrating the variety of the genus, so we want to show off cultivars of distinction in ways that enable their key characteristics to shine. I'm looking forward to the challenges this presents and coming up with fresh ideas to share at the shows and via the videos.

Shows update

We have invited to attend two new Plant Fairs in 2018:

- Moggerhanger Park in Bedfordshire will be hosting a Plant fair in association with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Plant Heritage on Sunday 3rd of June
- Adrian Bloom is hosting a Gardeners' Weekend at Bressingham, 8th & 9th September.

More information will follow in due course.

Our [Show calendar](#) is looking quite busy - if you take a look you will see we have separated out the show dates and [nursery open dates](#) to avoid confusion.

Nursery update

This season, after much thought, we have decided to open



Hosta 'Paul's Glory'

We make no apologies for featuring [Hosta 'Paul's Glory'](#) once again. For those of you who are unaware, this was the most expensive single cultivar we added to our collection, back in the 1980s. It remains Robin's favourite and I love it for its fabulous stature, wherever I exhibit it. It is a reliable grower and quickly re-establishes when divided. As the cultivar matures the leaves develop more texture, which make them less susceptible to snail damage and the effects of adverse weather.

restricted times rather than have an open gate policy.

We need to get a lot of ground work and clearance done around the nursery, which will mean we will be elsewhere, often with noisy machinery, and may not be aware we have visitors. We would hate to miss you but, more importantly, we would like to avoid any risk of you walking into danger trying to find us.

We have decided to open Friday through to Monday on [every weekend in May and June](#), and all other times by appointment.

Just call or email us in advance to check we will be there. As ever, you will get a warm welcome and help if required, so don't hesitate to get in touch.

Job of the month: as the days lengthen and the sun has more power (when we see it), the soil will begin to warm up and the pests will surface. Deploy your jars and good luck.

If you decide to mulch your plants this spring, place a jar underneath the mulch as pests will be attracted to the rotting vegetation, and you won't have to look at the jars - [click here](#) for more information.

Next month we will feature an update from the nursery, which we hope will include signs of spring - fingers crossed.

Team Mickfield Hostas

As the season progresses, the leaf centres lighten gradually to a creamy colour whilst the blue-green margins seem to become bolder. Too much sun will hasten the colour change, so lots of dappled shade is good for maintaining the vibrancy of leaf colour for longer.

Although *H.* 'Paul's Glory' can be displayed as a specimen, in isolation, we feel it sings out when planted among other cultivars of similar stature, particularly among 'blue-leaved' varieties.

If you love the colour and *H.* 'Paul's Glory' is too large for you to consider in your garden, you could try *H.* '[Gold Standard](#)' instead, although the leaves are not as textured. Coming down further in size, you could look at *H.* '[Lucy Vitols](#)' or *H.* '[Rainforest Sunrise](#)' for great colour and texture.