



Happy New Year... looking forward to the 2010 season

What's New in 2010

This winter we added over 100 new varieties to our collection and, of those, we have seventeen different varieties available for sale. We will also be able to offer supplies of fifteen varieties from our collection, for the first time:

New for sale, and to collection

- h.* 'Americana'
- h.* 'Celtic Uplands'
- h.* 'Clown's Collar'
- h.* 'Color Festival'
- h.* 'Frosted Frolic'
- h.* 'Linda Sue'
- h.* 'Miss Susie'
- h.* 'Pistache'
- h.* 'Secret Ambition'
- h.* 'Sharp Dressed Man'
- h.* 'Slim and Trim'
- h.* 'Snow Mouse'
- h.* 'Super Sagae'
- h.* 'Teatime'
- h.* 'Valley's Glacier'
- h.* 'Waukon Thin Ice'
- h.* 'Woop Woop'



H. 'Amazing Grace'



H. 'Kiwi Full Monty'



H. 'Hippodrome'



H. 'Tick Tock'

New for sale, already in collection

- h.* 'Amazing Grace'
- h.* 'Chop Sticks'
- h.* 'Hippodrome'
- h.* 'Hirao Elite'
- h.* 'Kiwi Full Monty'
- h.* 'Lakeside Baby Face'
- h.* 'Lakeside Little Tuft'
- h.* 'Lakeside Miss Muffet'
- h.* 'Mack the Knife'
- h.* 'Maui Buttercups'
- h.* 'Ops'
- h.* 'Sparkling Burgundy'
- h.* 'Tick Tock'
- h.* 'Velvet Moon'
- h.* 'Victory'

2010 Shows

We are still finalising our plans for 2010 but so far we can confirm the following shows:

April 22-25

Harrogate Spring
We will be in the Floral Hall

May 6-9

Malvern Spring
We will be in the Floral Marquee (MFM23) and outside as usual

May 25-29

Chelsea
We will be in the Floral Pavillion (D27)

June 16-20

Gardener's World
This year we will be in the Floral Marquee (stand 25)

July 6-11

Hampton Court
We will be in the Plant Heritage Marquee and outside in Plant Plot A8 (which is very close to the Plant Heritage Marquee)

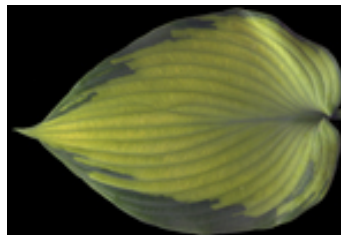
The eagle-eyed among you will spot the addition of Chelsea this year. We haven't done this show for about 10 years so are very excited to have had our application accepted for 2010.

We are always delighted to be able to offer varieties for sale that we have had for a while in our collection, especially those highlighted above. Every year we try to add a few more varieties to our availability list from the collection, by splitting suitable parent plants. This is often as the result of an enquiry for a specific variety so don't forget our 'wish list' for these enquiries.

Our predictions for 2010

We feel this year will be a time to celebrate new beginnings. The official end of the recession will still mean plenty of hardship for many people but it is a good time to review what is important in life. For many people it is a return to more simple pleasures such as home-based hobbies like gardening. This year we think it will be the time for larger, statement plants to make their mark. In particular, we feel the varieties with rugose leaves will become more popular as they tend to be more pest resistant - see this month's footnote. Of the new varieties, ***h.* 'Linda Sue'** and ***h.* 'Super Sagae'** look like they might become modern classics in this category.

One of the most popular varieties from last season was ***h.* 'Beckoning'**. This fascinating cultivar begins the season as a rather magnificent blue. If you look closely at the leaves you can just make out the faintest of variegation suggesting a darker margin. As the season progresses the centre colouration of the leaf gets brighter until you have a stunning variegated plant. We will have this plant for sale again this year.



Also this year, we are extremely pleased to be able to offer new supplies of ***h.* 'Climax'**.

We sold out in 2008 and thought we might not see it again for a while.

As usual we will endeavour to bring you the very best examples of the hosta genus throughout 2010 to help you make the most of your garden.

Footnote... No pain, no gain!

It was a surprise to find hostas named as the third least popular of garden plants in the **BBC Gardener's World Awards** poll last summer. As slugs and snails were the most hated garden pests we suspect this explains the poor ranking. To put this finding in perspective, roses won the most popular and the least popular categories at the same time. This is no surprise when you consider that roses probably take more effort to keep looking fabulous - but look at the results of a little extra effort.

Next month: Website updates and more details for the 2010 season...

The advice and opinions contained within this monthly newsletter have been formed over more than 30 years of experience with the Hosta genus. We are constantly learning and refining that knowledge and would welcome any suggestions that readers of this newsletter would like to make so please [contact us](#).

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We will update the website with all the details once we have them.

Mini matters

We expect the miniature varieties to continue to be popular in 2010 and we are pleased to be able to offer four more for sale:



***h.* 'Lakeside Baby Face'**



***h.* 'Lakeside Miss Muffet'**



***h.* 'Mack the Knife'**



***h.* 'Ops'**

We will also have a new member to the 'mouse' family...

***h.* 'Snow Mouse'**, which has a white centre with a blue-green margin.