



MICKFIELD HOSTAS



Stock preparations for 2019

December is a busy month for us at the nursery as it is the time of year when we need to clear away dead leaves and debris, check and clean all the pots and organise the pots into their own sections ready for the stock take.

Plant Finder

The deadline for submissions into the [Plant Finder](#) database is the end of December and we managed it yet again, with time to spare. There is a lot of work involved in clearing three 120 foot poly tunnels but this year we had Misty for company, which made the whole process more entertaining.

Plant Finder ask nurseries to submit only those varieties they will have available for sale in the forthcoming year. As a result, the list can vary considerably year on year, with the 2019 issue under construction as we speak.

We only list varieties where we have at least four of them for sale. This gives us some wriggle room if a variety doesn't over-winter well, or there is an issue with reversion. As with all plants you cannot predict with 100% surety that you will indeed have that variety available when the season starts. However, we seldom have complete failures these days as we also don't tend to list varieties we are less confident with. All this means that we do not list all the varieties we have for sale so it is important, if you have a specific plant in mind, to check with us during the season as we might have a couple of them available or may be able to divide a parent plant to satisfy your requirements.

You could also check out the [online RHS Plant Finder resource](#) as another nursery may be able to supply the plant you want.



We would like to introduce the youngest member of Team Mickfield Hostas: Misty. We particularly like the banner photo, which Andrew took of Misty sitting among the pots, looking much larger than she is. For those of you who have fond memories of 'The Goodies' we have called this image: Kitten Kong!

Garden Project update

Robin has continued clearing the banks of the reservoir whilst Roy and Mel have been busy on the plants. He has made great progress and, weather permitting, we should have a visual update for you next month.

So what do we have for sale in 2019?

You can check our [2019 availability list](#) online, together with an updated [Collection list](#) and lists of [fragrant](#) and [red-stemmed](#) varieties.

The AGM list will be updated when the new list is issued by the RHS, following the AGM forum.

We will have several new varieties for sale, some re-introductions and a host of old and new favourites. The search page has also been updated in line with our 2019 availability. A hard copy to download will be posted on the website during January when Mel has completed it.

Collection update

Whilst Mel has been clearing the sales stock Roy has been tidying up the Collection, taking pots out of their water trays and top-dressing the plants with composted bark. This helps prevent early emerging weeds and is particularly good at deterring the development of liverwort, which is the strangely alien-looking, mat forming growth that can sometimes cover the top of a container plant. Although it is harmless to *Hosta*, it can inhibit the emergence of shoots for miniature varieties and is not particularly good to look at. It does, however, have its uses in dry summers as it helps prevent evaporation from the soil below.

Next month we hope to be able to share more detailed plans for the reservoir garden project.

Until then we wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Team Mickfield Hostas

Mel has decided to focus the garden design on replicating the natural environment of *Hosta*. This will involve selecting companion planting, which will help achieve an authentic landscape, which is also sustainable in our climate.

