



# MICKFIELD HOSTAS



## Dear Subscriber

### Is Spring finally here?

This month's newsletter is slightly early due to us attending the Plant Sale at Woottens of Wenhasten tomorrow. Last year it was cold and miserable for most of the day but this year it looks like it could be lovely.

After the bright cold of Harrogate, we will be setting off for the RHS Malvern Spring Festival with the promise of warm weather, what a difference a couple of weeks makes. Indeed, our display plants from Harrogate should be much further forward at Malvern. With this in mind, Mel took a video of her Premier Gold Medal display at Harrogate to compare with the one she is planning for Malvern - see the side column.

The display was extremely well received by judges and show visitors alike, with many appreciating the advice the educational material gave. Mel plans to take a video of the Malvern display to show the difference in growth.

## Exhibition garden

Our plans for the exhibition garden have changed because we have decided to put our south field to another use. As a result, our planting plan will need to move, so it is good we didn't get the chance to do too much last autumn. Watch this space for more details when we have had the opportunity to develop a revised plan.

## The National Collection is emerging...

The sales plants are well through in Tunnel 1 now, and the National Collection plants are emerging well. In a couple of weeks, most should be through the soil, especially if the weather stays warm and heats the pots up nicely.

Finally, the news has been full of a potential slug invasion this year due to the uninterrupted breeding cycle, which has gone unchecked with a cold winter. Remember, although we find snails do much more damage, an over-population of slugs could prove a problem too, so get your jars out there and operational...

## Team Mickfield

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### Premier Gold...

We kicked off our 2016 show season with a great medal at the Harrogate Show.

This helped us keep warm during one of the coldest shows we can remember...

[Click on the image to view.](#)



### New leaflet...

As part of our educational programme for 2016, we have created a new leaflet giving basic cultivation tips and tricks to get the best out of your plants.

The leaflets will be given away from our displays at flower shows, and plant sales, throughout the season but you can [download a copy](#) and print it yourself if you are unlikely to see us in person this year.