



This month...

We have more details of our show schedule for 2011 and look forward to the Malvern Spring Flower Show.

We reflect on a bright start to the 2011 season and highlight some special plants we plan to feature at upcoming shows...

Our 2011 show season...

Kicked off with a lovely week at Harrogate.

Coming a full week earlier than the 2010 show last year, we were expecting to find it even more of a challenge to bring forward our plants to exhibit and sell. However, the early winter and subsequent onset of spring, proved our fears unfounded. There were quite a few varieties not sufficiently forward to take, but this was a minor hiccup.

Our exhibit plants were so far forward that we couldn't use the largest specimens, such as **h.**

'Sage', **h.** **'Blue Mammoth'** and **h.**

'Niagara Falls' as they took up too much room.

Thankfully they got a chance to show off on the **Hippopottering** stand. It all came together nicely and was awarded a Gold Medal - click on the image to see some views of the stand.

It was a relief to have a good Harrogate show after the disappointing start to the season in 2010. Our mail order sales have jumped considerably, compared to this time last year, and we are already needing to re-issue our catalogue due to some varieties already selling out - [click here](#) for the second edition.

Plant Heritage

This year we are delighted to be involved with Plant Heritage again at both major shows and Suffolk-based events.

The organisation has been offered a brilliant spot in Hall 17 at the NEC for the **BBC Gardeners' World Live** show. The gardening element of the show has changed location with the Food and Countryfile elements, and is back in Hall 17. The Plant Heritage stand straddles the side entrance so we hope lots of visitors will feel inspired to find out more about the work of the organisation and the National Collections they champion, as they enter and leave the show.

The Plant Heritage Marquee at **Hampton Court** is in its usual spot, although it is now referred to as the Thames Area of the showground. This year the theme is a **'Living Library of Plants'** and we are planning to feature three aspects of our National Collection:



What, where, when...

This season we will be stretching ourselves to be in two places at once, at most of the major shows. We have attached maps of our locations, which you can click on to open up a separate window.

The exception to this is Malvern, as we will be in our usual spots:

12-15 May Malvern Spring Flower Show

Find us beside the Rock Garden - **OS/775** and in the Floral Marquee **MFM/23** (same stand location as last year).

15-19 June BBC Gardeners' World Live

We will be in the Floral Marquee, stand **FM33** and in the Plant Heritage stand in **Hall 17** (either side of the entrance to the Hall)



1. a branch of the genus related to *h. montana*, a species from China
2. breeding desirable traits into modern cultivars
3. a guide to the features and information on our website, designed to help gardeners collect and cultivate their own hostas

We will also be giving demonstrations on practical ways to prevent pest damage and answering all your questions about hostas.

A host of National Collections will be featured again this year, so why not investigate them as part of your day there.

At **Tatton Park** this year, the Plant Heritage Marquee will be situated near to the Deer Park entrance, which is where visitors travelling by car enter and exit the showground. We are hoping to showcase fragrant varieties this year. As the season has started earlier than usual we hope to have many of these varieties flowering earlier.

Coming up... Malvern Spring Flower Show

This year we will again be in our usual places with a huge range of plants to inspire and tempt you.

Last year we were reduced to raiding our Chelsea exhibit plants to stage our display at Malvern Spring. It was bitterly cold and the plants we had bought forward to break dormancy simply keeled over or refused to fully open - who could blame them? Consequently, Chelsea proved a headache, as the rest of our collection were not sufficiently forward to show. The plants we had pulled forward were not looking very happy after the weather conditions at Harrogate and Malvern, and we were not willing to show anything less than perfect at such an exacting show as Chelsea. What a difference a year makes - with a wealth of plants to choose from, our biggest challenge this year is deciding which varieties to leave behind!

This year we have a lot of new cultivars for sale, for the first time, and have decided to feature a few at each show. However, if you would like to see them all, why not visit the nursery. This spring the colour is fantastic and there are three tunnels full of plants for sale as well as our National Collection to browse - click on the image below for a wide shot of tunnel one:



PSST... don't forget to let us know if you would like us to take any plants to Malvern for collection, by **Friday 6th May** - hope to see you there.

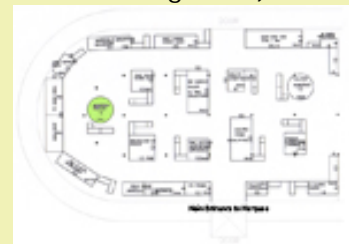
Next month: We update the *h. montana* branch of the genus

5-10 July Hampton Court Flower Show

This year we will be taking part in a new feature called 'Totally Plants' in the Park Area (formerly known as Area B, south of the Long Water), stand **PK/261**



We will also be involved in the Plant Heritage Marquee, stand **PH4**, in the Thames Area (formerly Area A alongside the Thames entrance to the showground)



20-24 July Tatton Park Flower Show

This year we will be in the new Floral Marquee, stand **FM22** - near the Avenue C entrance. We will also be involved in the **Plant Heritage** marquee, which has moved to near the Deer Park entrance.



The advice and opinions contained within this monthly newsletter have been formed over more than 35 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**.