



MICKFIELD HOSTAS



Dear Subscriber

This month's nursery update video clip includes advice on over-wintering your *Hosta*, which we touched upon last month.

The right moisture level

It is important that your plants do not dry out prior to dormancy, but you don't want them waterlogged when the frosts begin either. Check your pot-based plants if the temperature is threatening to drop below zero for more than a few days. If they are a bit wet, move them into a more sheltered spot and try to tilt the pot or lay it on its side, to avoid any further build-up of moisture. If your plants are too big to move then it is likely they are sufficiently mature to weather the conditions.

Once the water in the soil freezes, it expands, which is what causes ceramic and earthenware pots to crack. Likewise it can damage more fragile root systems, or those that have been left too dry or wet prior to freezing.

Just try to avoid extremes and your plants should be fine. All our collection plants and immature sales plants, in the poly-tunnels, usually get frozen to the benches during the winter and we rarely experience losses if we manage to maintain a good moisture level in the run-up to winter.

Update on the garden

Following a trip to The National Arboretum at Westonbirt, we have been inspired to consider planting a range of different trees to enhance what has already taken root. The photo opposite shows a particularly delicious *Acer* we saw there, which we thought we would share.

Some smaller varieties of tree tend to need more shelter, which they will get from the established varieties. These will help create a lower canopy to better shade the *Hosta* we plant, and add a vertical dimension to the garden. Choosing trees and shrubs, which look good at different times of the year will help create year round interest.

The first job is to look at what we already have as the foundation to the design as starting is always difficult unless you have something to



Nursery update...

The bare bones of the collection tunnel are revealed as we continue to dismantle it and move everything.

We include a few tips on over-wintering your container grown *Hosta* to avoid damage.



Acer palmatum 'Umegae'

2017 shows

Our show calendar is taking shape earlier than usual, so we have updated the website accordingly.

Shows in 2017 include:

Malvern Spring Festival
Gardeners' World Live
Hampton Court Palace

Flower Show
Tatton Park Flower Show

work with. It is quite exciting, especially as we have been planning to begin work on this for some time.

We had better roll our sleeves up and get going, so we have more to share next month...

Team Mickfield

Hyde Hall Summer Show

We are looking forward to celebrating our 10th anniversary of our National Collection in 2017 in our displays.

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