



MICKFIELD HOSTAS



Dear subscriber

One done, second in progress...

The initial set of beds has been completed and planted up with Hosta. This is great because the plan was to prepare ready for planting in the spring but the weather has been kind so it is also planted with a range of cultivars and a few species too.

A second bed is well underway, with the initial digging and incorporation of topsoil done. We won't plant this one up until 2018 as the nights are turning colder now and we haven't had any significant rain for a while. We apologise if this is the only weather you have experienced in your part of the world - what we would give for more rainfall in East Anglia.

Re-constructing the collection tunnel

The collection tunnel framework is progressing well. After placing the concrete foundation blocks, Robin, Roy and David have been putting the framework together and now Robin is preparing the woodwork so we can fix the net covering in place. It is a giant jigsaw puzzle but Robin has done a great job working out how it should all go back together.

We decided to remove the oak tree, which had established itself to one end of the tunnel. It was proving too difficult to arrange the tunnel around it and would have been a nightmare to work around when covering the structure with net.

Bush-wacking

In the meantime Roy and David have been cutting back years of bramble growth, and rogue self-sown hedging, round the perimeter of the front field and along the back of the collection tunnels. The plan is to replace it with post, rail and wire fencing to keep deer out and chickens in. It's great to be able to spend some time doing all these



Nursery update

Click on the image above to take a look at the latest progress. The video also shows Roy's progress with preparing plants for winter:



Roy drains and up-ends the trays onto bricks to elevate them off the ground. He replaces the pots on top, to weigh them down. Elevating the trays in this way encourages snails to hibernate underneath them, rather than in the pots on top. After removing dead leaves and weed Roy top-dresses the pots with orchid bark. This is a great weed suppressing medium and it helps prevent evaporation of

jobs alongside the routine maintenance - it must mean we are making progress.

2018 shows

We are delighted to say that our RHS show applications have all been successful, which means we can confirm our attendance at Malvern Spring Festival, Hampton Court Palace, Tatton Park and Hyde Hall Flower shows next season.

Mel is looking forward to creating fresh educational materials and a new look and feel for the displays in 2018, which will celebrate 25 years of Mickfield Hostas exhibiting at flower shows across the UK.

Other show dates will be added as we get confirmation. We are also reviewing our opening dates for the nursery and will add this information as soon as we agree what it should be.

Take a look at how our [2018 calendar](#) is shaping up.

2018 price review

Unfortunately, we will need to raise the prices of some (not all) of our sales plants in 2018. We have frozen prices for the past 2 years but cannot sustain that position long term. The price rises will not be radical but if you would like to take advantage of current prices then please ensure you order before the end of January 2018, when we will be doing our annual stock take and price review.

Ta ta for now, Team Mickfield Hostas

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moisture from the pots over winter, when the pots are no longer sitting in their trays.



Mail order

Although we are no longer planting Hosta directly into the ground or dividing, we are continuing with mail order requests.

Just plant your purchases into suitable pots, water well, and keep them in a sheltered spot if you don't have a cold frame or unheated greenhouse.

If you don't want your plants yet you can pre-order for spring delivery at 2017 prices.