



MICKFIELD HOSTAS



Dear subscriber

We have begun work on the exhibition garden...

Finally, after being thwarted by the weather and lack of time, we have embarked on clearing the front field at the nursery to begin landscaping in earnest. The initial set of flower beds has been augmented with topsoil to give the plants a bit of an easier time putting down their roots before hitting clay and this area is currently being planted.

We are planning to add more trees and shrubs, create pathways and a meandering waterway in phases, as the weather allows.

We will provide monthly bulletins of progress, when there is news to report.



Garden video

Click on the image above to take a look at the progress we have made on the garden so far.

We also show where the second collection tunnel is being set out for reconstruction

Autumn colour

It is quite amazing to see how the different cultivars react to the onset of autumn. Usually green and blue areas of the leaves turn orange before losing their pigmentation, which can add another dimension to a garden scheme, if fleeting in duration. The following photographs were taken on 28th September at the nursery:



The photo on the left is [H. 'Forbidden Fruit'](#), a lovely, wider-margined sport of [H. 'Orange Marmalade'](#). This cultivar has a very intensely golden orange centre to the leaf in the spring, which fades to creamy white during the season. By

What to do now the autumn is here...

Now is the time of year that *Hosta* are giving us their final flourishes of colour before the leaves die back after all their hard work creating the sugars to feed the plant, and generate shoots for the following year. Many varieties are entering this phase earlier than normal because they had such an early start in the spring.

Hosta are hardy perennials and so usually over-winter with minimum intervention.

We have covered the subject of *Hosta* hardiness, and how to over-winter your plants, in previous issues of our newsletters.

autumn the orange hit comes from the leaf margins, as it does with [H. 'Fire and Ice'](#), on the right.

Click on the images below to read the archived files:

Cultivars from the Tardiana Group (see photos below) tend to retain their colour much longer into the autumn, due in large part to the substance of the leaves. If you watch this month's movie clip you will see plants from the Tardiana Group dotted through the collection, all still looking vibrantly showy, whilst most of the rest are shades of autumn, or have gone over completely.



In the left hand photo you can see [H. 'El Nino'](#) (left) and [H. 'Kathryn Lewis'](#) (right) are both still exhibiting excellent colour and in the right hand photo [Hosta 'Justine'](#) still has its richly dark colouring. Eventually the leaves turn shades of orange and are fabulous!

Here's to the delights of autumn and speak again soon,
Team Mickfield Hostas

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