



Happy New Year

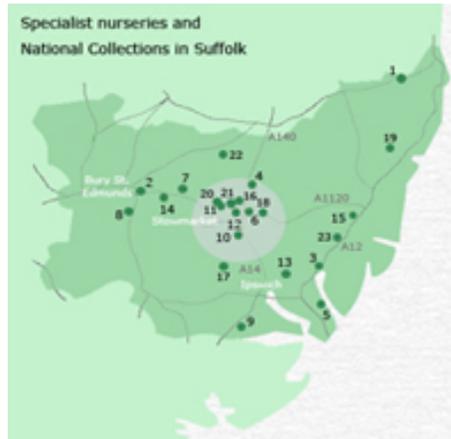
Welcome to our 7th year of newsletters, headed up by *h.* 'Golden Meadows', looking fabulous in its spring colours. This month we preview our plans for 2013...

It worked well in 2012...

So we are going to approach 2013 in the same way, opening the nursery every day of the season from 1st April through to 29th September.

In 2013 visitors will once again be able to stroll through the National Collection as we complete our reorganisation. Our three polytunnels will be brimming with delicious sales plants for you to choose from, and we hope you will be able to see the start of work on our show garden. As ever, there will be lots going on at the nursery to make your visit even more interesting. If you are a regular visitor then you will see plenty of changes happening. If you haven't already been to see us before, then why not drop by in 2013.

If you are visiting the area and are interested in other specialist nurseries and National Collections, click on the map above to see what there is in Suffolk. Not all collections and nurseries are open without appointment, so check first to avoid disappointment.



2013 Show Calendar

Once again we are excited to be attending our usual shows (including the Suffolk Show), but we will only be exhibiting in one location at each show - all under cover:

Show	Dates	Location
Harrogate Spring	25-28 April	FH1
Malvern Spring	9-12 May	MFM23
Suffolk Show	29-30 May	Floral Marquee
Gardeners' World Live	12-16 June	FM50
Hampton Court	9-14 July	Plant Heritage Marquee
Tatton Park	25-28 July	FM55
Harrogate Autumn	13-15 September	FH1

In addition to the flower shows we will also be doing more Plant Fairs in East Anglia, so we can get out and about a bit more in the locality, and support our regional Plant Heritage groups:

35th Anniversary of Plant Heritage

Once again, we will be supporting Plant Heritage throughout the season, mainly at plant fairs throughout East Anglia.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the organisation, and they will be celebrating it in style in the Plant Heritage Marquee at Hampton Court.

We will be joining the team at the show, and are looking forward to working with them all again. We are planning a background exhibit this time, with even more varieties on show, and available for sale.

We will have more details available after February.

Plant Heritage is also planning a series of Open Days to help celebrate the anniversary - a **full list** of these is available on their website.

We are planning an Open Day at the nursery during August, in collaboration with the Suffolk Group of Plant Heritage - more details to follow.

Why not check out what is happening in your area and investigate the **work they undertake** to help conserve our plant heritage.

Changes at Hampton

Plant Fair	Dates	Location
Hyde Hall Spring Fair	20-21 April	RHS Hyde Hall, Essex
Woottens Plant Fair	5 May	Woottens Nursery, Wenhaston, Suffolk
Helmingham Plant Sale	26 May	Helmingham Hall, Suffolk
East Ruston Plant Fair	8 June	East Ruston Vicarage, Norfolk
Chippenham Plant Fair	23 June	Chippenham, Cambridgeshire
Hyde Hall Autumn Fair	21-22 September	RHS Hyde Hall, Essex

We are still waiting to hear about a couple of flower shows and may add a few more plant fairs if we have space in the calendar - [more details here](#).

Recent website work

As promised, we have created a new section to our website featuring planting ideas. We have been building floral displays at flower shows across the UK since the 1990s. In recent years we have received much positive feedback from visitors and judges, and, in particular, from garden designers. As a result we have started being more disciplined about taking photographs of our displays, so we can share what has worked well.

This new section is called '[planting ideas](#)' and consists of links to three different areas:

1. [Landscape planting](#)
2. [Container planting](#)
3. [Combination planting](#)



There is also some more general advice on garden conditions, from soil types to shade levels, and how hostas will cope in various conditions. We plan to develop this section into a useful tool to be used alongside our 'search' facility.

Search facility

This facility has grouped only those plants we have available for sale into sections based upon the dominant leaf colouring. There are 48 different combinations of leaf colouring to choose from. Clicking on a leaf colour will take you into a sub-section of plants organised by size, from giant down to miniature. Each variety is colour-coded according to the flower colour, which is becoming an increasingly popular criteria of plant choice, despite hostas being grown primarily for foliage impact.

If there are no varieties listed in a specific size category then you can always try a slightly different foliage colouring to see if there is anything suitable.

We have had some very positive feedback on this facility because it helps narrow down searches for specific plants and helps customers design planting combinations. We will reorganise this facility in line with our 2013 availability list as soon as we have finalised it in the spring.

Next month: [Naming of hostas over the years...](#)

Court Palace Flower Show and Tatton Park Flower Show

In an exciting move, the organisers of the Hampton Court Show have decided to co-locate all the plant elements in one place on the showground in 2013.

This area, situated by the Stud Gate entrance, will be devoted to all things floral. The Floral Marquee will be in the same position but it will be joined by the Plant Heritage Marquee and the Plant Village.

Visitors to the show looking to find out about, and buy plants, will be able to do so in one area. This is the main entrance for visitors using their own transport, and should make returning purchases to vehicles during the day more manageable.

This will be welcome news to plant lovers, who have told us they have found it increasingly difficult to find and purchase plants at the show over recent years. We look forward to this change and believe it will create a special look and feel to this part of the showground.

This change is also being planned for Tatton Park Flower Show. Although this is a much smaller show, there is still a lot to see. Navigation is easier at Tatton Park but sometimes it would be great to be able to wander through defined zones of content rather than have to hunt down specific things, scattered around the showground.

The advice and opinions contained within this monthly newsletter have been formed over more than 38 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**.