



MICKFIELD HOSTAS



Dear subscriber

At last, some much needed rain is falling in Mickfield

It is amazing to see the nursery respond to the lower temperature and rain so quickly but we do need a lot more to make a real difference. This time of year is tricky, we need wind to move the air and avoid the plants 'tipping' but that serves to dry the plants out more quickly. As the plants came forward a month earlier than usual this season, they are already looking a little tired in places. However, they are coping well with the conditions - probably much better than we are.

Shows update

Gardeners' World was a feat of endurance this year, due to the excessive heat, but everyone seemed to enjoy the show and the 50th birthday of the BBC programme. This month's mini movie features our display at the show.

We are about to depart for [Hampton Court Palace Flower Show](#), closely followed by [Tatton Park](#) and then [Hyde Hall](#), hence sending the newsletter a day early. It is a mad few weeks of intense work, but usually enjoyable if it isn't too hot. Mel is looking forward to building her displays on different staging for Hampton and Tatton.

She is planning to feature more fragrant flowered cultivars at both shows in the hope that the early start to the season means the flowers of the fragrant varieties will be earlier too.

Finally for now...

Subsequent to the publication of the most recent British Hosta and Hemerocallis Society newsletter we have had a number of customers expressing concerns about Hosta Virus X (HVX).

We would like to take this opportunity to remind our subscribers about the research the AHS conducted into the disease, and the subsequent publication of a leaflet, which provides the essential information gardeners and growers need to know to mitigate the spread of HVX.

[Click here](#) to visit the AHS Disease section of the Society's website.



Gardeners' World Live 2017

Click on the image above to take a tour of our latest educational display. Our stand was alongside the Demo theatre in the Floral Marquee, so we got a few milliseconds of BBC coverage as the cameras scanned the crowds.

A full list of the varieties we used in the display [is available here](#).

HVX queries

As with any plant disease, caution is always the watch word. Our policy has always been to isolate, observe and learn. As a consequence of our experience, combined with the advice issued by the American Hosta Society (AHS), we have been encouraged that HVX is manageable and should not present the kind of panic seen with other diseases affecting other genus.

Keep things simple

Divide Hosta after flowering.

Always wash tools in bleach.

If you suspect your plant is

We have also addressed this issue in past newsletters - [see our archive](#).

Interestingly, it seems that the closer a variety is related to *H. sieboldiana*, the more likely it is to be resistant to HVX, which is another excellent reason to choose some of the older, tried and tested cultivars and why we continue to recommend them.

Happy gardening,
Team Mickfield

infected, dig it up carefully at the end of the season, ensuring you dig it out from a larger area than the plant covers to avoid damaging the roots. If you have it in a pot, just put it where it won't annoy you to look at it. Observe it the following season to check the issues you suspected were not weather-related. Either test the plant and destroy if infected, or just destroy it. If you are not happy with the plant then replace it.