

March 2019



MICKFIELD HOSTAS



While we await the Hostas...

We are often asked for recommendations for plants to complement *Hosta* and there are a wealth of spring flowering plants you can choose from but one of our favourites are *Helleborus*.

If you remove the leaves as the flowers emerge, not only will you get to see them in all their glory it also helps clear the way for the hosta shoots, which begin to surface as the hellebores start to fade.



Early spring?

Say is quietly, but what a difference in the weather we are experiencing from this time last year, when the country was gripped by the 'beast from the east'.

Some of you may recall the photo we used in the March 2018 issue of the newsletter (above), which shows the nursery with a thick layer of snow. Yes, admittedly there is still time for our weather to change for the worse but the long range view is encouraging.

There is nothing like some early bright warm days to trigger thoughts of the garden and now is the time to plan changes and new additions.

Even we have been adding to our [availability list](#) for the forthcoming season in the spirit of the moment, so a few more varieties are back in stock.

[Hosta 'Katie Q'](#)

An early riser, this lovely cultivar is already showing her shoots, and how she has multiplied over dormancy.

Hosta 'Katie Q' multiplies and grows extremely willingly. Named by Mark Zilis (Q and Z Nursery, Inc) after his wife Katie Queller-Zilis, it is a sport of [H. 'Marilyn'](#), which in turn was named for Katie's mother.

Forming a domed mound of foliage, we often use *H.* 'Katie

Entering the new season

When Mel took the photo of the hellebore at the head of the newsletter, that corner of her garden was buzzing with honey bees, a truly evocative sound of nature.

Unfortunately, when everything starts to warm up, so the slugs and snails emerge, hungry and sniffing out likely food sources. Don't forget to do something about these pests if you experienced any issues last year. We haven't had a prolonged cold period this winter to help interrupt their breeding cycle, so numbers have probably increased.

Why not visit our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page for some hints and tips on dealing with the main pests that like to make a meal of your lovely hosta leaves. I would just like to say that we can only speak from our own experience in dealing with pest control and, as with all matters of life, moderation and perspective should be the watch words. Slugs and snails will not kill your plant but they can make a mess of it, so rather than wait for this to happen, there are steps you can take to mitigate the worse effects.

Many apologies for the brevity of this issue of the newsletter, Mel and David are converting their garage, and installing central heating, so it is a juggling act to get everything done before the show season starts. Don't forget to check out our [Show Calendar](#) if you plan to catch us on the road in 2019 and, if you fancy going further afield for a complete hosta indulgence this June, why not visit the [American Hosta Society's annual conference](#) - details opposite.

Speak soon,
Team Mickfield Hostas

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Q' in our displays as she is such an excellent performer. The leaf margins broaden as the cultivar matures and if she likes to spot she is growing in, she can push the expected medium-sized dimensions.



[2019 American Hosta Society
Convention](#)

June 12 -15, 2019

Green Bay, Wisconsin, USA