



Newsletter of
the North Coast
Hosta Society
Volume 4 Issue 2
June 2020



2020 CALENDAR

April 25 11:00 AM Saturday	Meeting cancelled
May 30 Saturday	Meeting cancelled
June 27 Saturday June 10-13	TBA - Watch for any news AHS Convention - Cancelled
July 25 Saturday	Hosta Swap and Picnic Dave and Beth Bowe
August 22 Saturday	Craft - Cast stepping stones Emerald Forest Nursery Picnic and bon-fire
September 18 & 19	Fall Hosta Forum - Edinboro, PA
October 264 Saturday	Annual Meeting Pot Luck Club House at Pine Lakes
November	No Meeting
December	No Meeting

Play the Hosta
Mega Match
Challenge Part 2



Notes from the Editor

I am sure you have figured out by now that we did not meet on May 30. Please know that the Board is watching the Governor's restrictions on gatherings of ten or more very closely to see how soon we can get together.

It is our sincere hope that the situation will continue to improve and we can meet safely and talk about our gardens, our newest acquisitions and, of course, the weather. Please understand it is our responsibility to ensure the health and safety of our members. Therefore, the planned garden tours will not take place, but we would surely like to have the Auction as it is our only fund raiser.

I WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AS SOON AS WE HAVE A GREEN LIGHT TO MEET.

In the meantime, as we have gotten through a very strange winter/spring and seem to be jumping into summer, please keep the Auction in mind as you work with your hostas. Divisions of three or more eyes are really appreciated and clumps are wonderful.

As a member of the AHS newsletter exchange, I have been lucky to receive a number of great articles from other newsletters that I can pass on to all of you. If you can't get into the garden with all of the rain some of you have received (we have started watering some areas), maybe you can fill the time with some interesting reading. And we finish the quiz in this issue.

Hope to see all of you soon. Please patronize our members who sell hostas, etc. You know there is no such thing as "too many."

Cindy Hughes

Blue Hostas: Why are they blue? How to care for them.

by Vladimir Mirka

Reprinted abridged from Northern Illinois Hosta Society Hosta Happenings, May 2020

From SHADY BUSINESS Newsletter of The Potomac Hosta Club March 2020 abridged by the Editor. Mr. Mirka resides near Prague in the Czech Republic

Leaves of blue hostas are basically dark green. The blue color is visible due to a layer of wax on the leaves' surface. This phenomenon is unique in the plant world since hostas are shade tolerant, and most plants with a blue surface coating, as seen in many cacti, yuccas, agaves, etc., have it as protection against the sun. Most blue hostas are resistant to slugs and snails, because the wax is bitter and they do not like it. Some hosta cultivars have a thick wax layer; on other cultivars it is thinner. The thicker the wax layer, the more intense the blue color that the hosta develops. Also, the color is longer lasting. In direct sun-under the influence of heat, the wax layer degrades and gradually disappears. That is why most blue hostas are green-blue or just dark green from mid-summer until autumn. Try it yourself: Slightly wipe the wax layer from the leaf with your finger and the leaf will become green. It is that easy to remove.



Hosta 'Blue Angel' Pic by Ron Asselborn

Blue hostas perform best in temperate climates, with a wet and long spring and cooler summer. In very warm regions, in the south, where the year goes straight from mild winter to hot summer, the blue color lasts for just a short while. Blue hostas generally perform better in somewhat colder climates. In Central European conditions, blue hostas are brightest from the end of May until the middle of June. Then the blue color slowly disappears. Blue hosta cultivars are shade tolerant plants. The more sun they have, the sooner they lose their wax coating and keep their blue

color for a shorter time. Extensive irrigation can increase the duration of their nice blue color. Be careful not to irrigate from above, as water can wash the wax layer down from the leaves. Apply water carefully close around the roots if you want to keep the wonderful bright blue color as long as possible. Older plants have a thicker wax coating, so that older well-rooted clumps are more intensely blue than young plants of the same cultivar.

This blue hosta (below) was exposed to full sun for a



long time and the protective wax layer on the leaves was burned by the sun. The green parts of the leaves are wax free. Leaves that were in shade remained blue.

It is not true that there are no beautiful blue cultivars among the older cultivars, or that all of the new blue cultivars are ideally blue. Between the older and new hosta cultivars there are plenty of truly beautiful blue types. I have divided blue hosta cultivars into three categories and listed some representative cultivars in each category. The division is highly subjective. You may have different experiences in your garden.

Often under certain circumstances and under specific suitable light conditions, BLUE-GREEN HOSTAS will develop a wonderful blue color – the nicest in the garden! As a rule, these hostas will hold a beautiful blue color a bit shorter than those from the REALLY BLUE HOSTAS category.

Continued on page 3

REALLY BLUE HOSTAS

These hosta cultivars keep a beautiful blue color from the beginning of spring. The intensity of the blue color culminates in the period from the end of May to the



Hosta 'Halcyon'

middle of June, after which the blue gradually weakens. In many cases, these cultivars are almost blue until the autumn. Many growers think H. 'Halcyon' is the bluest-leaved hosta. The huge, heavily corrugated leaves of H. 'Elegans' are a favorite among the blue giants. H. 'Skylight' probably has one of the most brilliant blue hues. No hosta garden can be complete without H. 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'.

'Abiqua Drinking Gourd' 'Big Daddy' 'Blue Jay' 'Blue Vision' 'Camelot' 'Deep Blue Sea' 'Flemish Sky' 'Fragrant Blue' 'Hadspen Blue' 'Halcyon' 'Elegans' 'Love Pat' 'Prairie Sky' 'Skylight' 'Winfield Blue'.

GREEN-BLUE HOSTAS with a prevalence of blue

Under suitable conditions, these cultivars are often very beautiful. Their color may last a little shorter than REALLY BLUE HOSTAS. After the culmination of the blue color intensity in June, the color of

their leaves turns to a blue-green or greenish blue. Many of these hosta cultivars are real blue jewels and their beauty should not be underestimated. Included in this category would be most blue hosta cultivars. It's hard to find a favorite among them.

H. 'Krossa Regal' and 'Blue Angel' will not disappoint. The true-blue color of H. 'Lakeside Beach Bum' and 'Mystic Star' can be amazing at the end of May. Leaves of H. 'Salute' are upright and those of H. 'Neptune' are lanceolate wavy. The choice is yours.

'Beauty Little Blue' 'Big Mamma' 'Blue Angel' 'Blue Cadet' 'Blue Diamond' 'Blue Mouse Ears' 'Blue Umbrellas' 'Blueberry Muffin' 'High Tide' 'Krossa Regal' 'Lakeside Beach Bum' 'Lederhosen' 'Millennium' 'Mystic Star' 'Neptune' 'Queen of the Seas' 'Salute' 'Sapphire Pillows' 'Sky Dancer' 'Yankee Blue'



Why are my "blue" hostas not blue?

Maybe because you grow them in too much sun. A bit of sunlight does not injure any blue cultivar (especially morning sun), but intense afternoon sun quickly melts the wax layer and blue hostas soon lose their color. You irrigate the plants too often over the foliage. Frequent irrigation from above can wash the wax layer from the leaves and this can make your blue hostas lose their color. It's very easy to damage this layer.

START EARLY TO CONTROL NEMATODES

According to a talk given by hosta grower and breeder Ran Lydell, you should start in the spring to control Nematodes.

SPRING: First application- Disyston as in Bayer (brand) Advanced Rose and Flower Care, with fertilizer at 12-18-6. It's a granular systemic product that he gets from Home Depot.

MID AND LATE SUMMER: 2nd and 3rd applications: Zeritol (1T. per gallon of water).

FALL: 4th Application: Household bleach at 25% concentration.

The order of application makes sense; fertilize in the spring and bleach in the fall. Ran says he is not sure which product is more effective or if any one treatment is sufficient, but after this treatment, the affected hostas show no noticeable damage.

Reprinted from [Hoosier Hosta Herald](#), 2/2006

Debunking Gardening Myths

Myth #1:

(Reprinted with permission from East Tennessee Hosta Society March 2020)

You must prune trees and shrubs since they flower on new growth. Well, each year trees and shrubs put on new growth and they will flower on this new growth. You don't have to prune to have your plants put on new growth. Spring-flowering trees and shrubs set flower buds in the late summer into fall. Cold temperatures of the winter help the flowers develop. And when things warm up, they begin to grow and bloom. The best time to prune spring flowering trees and shrubs is after they flower! Summer and autumn flowering trees and shrubs can be pruned in late winter to very early spring, while they are dormant. You need to allow enough time for new growth where the flowers will form.



This is an example of an azalea sheared in the winter to keep its hedge shape. Only the deeper buds flowered because everything else was removed when they were winter sheared. Don't shear the spring flowering shrubs in winter. Let them flower and then trim to maintain a hedge.

Probably the other most common mistake in pruning flowering trees and shrubs is what is commonly called crape (or as in the South, crepe) murder by horticulturists. You've all seen it! Don't do it!

Note the spelling lesson as well as the pruning lesson!

The following photos show the before and after of correct pruning as shared by Paul Thompson with Clemson Extension (source info: Crape Myrtle Pruning, <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/crape-myrtle-pruning/>, photos Paul Thompson, ©2015, Clemson Extension, retrieved Feb 23, 2020).



Note: Per Dr. Michael Dirr's Manual of Woody Landscape Plants text, the name of *Lagerstroemia indica* and the hybrids with *L. fauriei* is "Crapemyrtle" – one word with an "a".

The Dangers of Imazapic and Imazapyr — AKA Enhanced Roundup

By Libby Greanya

Reprinted with permission from the June 2020 edition of Michigan Hosta Happenings, newsletter of the Michigan Hosta Society.

The scientist who discovered and named the Emerald Ash Borer in the United States after its introduction to southeastern Michigan in 2002 – Dr. David Roberts, PhD – spoke at the Jackson Men’s Garden Club lecture series on April 21, 2017 about the dangers of Imazapic and Imazapyr, AKA Enhanced Roundup, etc.

In 1970, scientist John Franz discovered the molecule glyphosate, which would become the active ingredient in Monsanto’s original Roundup herbicide formula. Glyphosate is non-selective, meaning it will kill all plants on contact, whereas previously Monsanto was selling selective herbicides that left crops unharmed. These initial formulas were problematic because they

had a tendency to be washed into streams and ground water, affecting fish and wildlife. But glyphosate products were more environmentally friendly than previous formulas because they decomposed into natural products like carbon dioxide, ammonia, and phosphoric acid, therefore it was safer to humans and wildlife. So began Roundup’s glyphosate formulas rule of the herbicide market in the late-1970s.

Now that the patent on Roundup has expired, there is a proliferation of

“new” products by Monsanto and many other herbicide companies --- a new formula that is even more powerful than glyphosate-based Roundup, but much deadlier to non-target plants like trees, grass, and other ornamentals. Imazapic or imazapyr is a water-soluble herbicide which can run off to non-target species. And guess how long the product “Roundup 365” lasts? That’s right, these formulas don’t break down for a year, sterilizing the soil!

Roundup has been hiding this chemical in a lot of their products, but many other companies are utilizing it too. Keep an eye out for Barrier, Ortho Groundclear, Sahara, Mohave, Arsenal, Assault, etc. Always read labels!

Amazingly the instructions usually say to apply these chemicals to driveways, side-walks, etc. where it can run off and kill or negatively impact your grass, shrubs, and trees! Dr. Roberts showed many examples of collateral chemical damage people have accidentally caused using these products.

Even “professionals” are making the mistake of using products with imazapic or imazapyr near trees and shrubs, because the directions are misleading. Some of the tree damage was a hundred yards from the source of the spray (the sidewalk weeds). Repeat – this herbicide is water soluble = run off effects!



Photo from amazon.com



Photo by Kevin Frank, MSU (www.canr.msu.edu)

A tragic, expensive and totally avoidable mistake. Look in your herbicide collection for products that contain Imazapic or Imazapyr. Spread the word – if your neighbor is using it, your plants are at risk from run-off. Note: plain Roundup (glyphosate) is not water soluble and not long lasting, so it is considered to be safer.

Hosta MegaMatch Challenge

By Don Rawson

Reprinted from the Michigan Hosta Society *Hosta Happenings*

Can you match all 100 hostas with the correct clue?

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 'A Many-splendored Thing' | 'Deep Pockets' | 'Little Sunspot' |
| 'After Midnight' | 'Dewed Steel' | 'Love Pat' |
| 'Aksarben' | 'Dixie Chickadee' | 'Midnight Oil' |
| 'Alligator Shoes' | 'El Niño' | 'Mighty Mouse' |
| 'Allan P. McConnell' | 'Fantasy Island' | 'Mississippi Delta' |
| 'Almost' | 'Fat Cat' | 'Neat and Tidy' |
| 'American Eagle' | 'First Frost' | 'Niagara Falls' |
| 'Andrew' | 'Formal Attire' | 'Night before Christmas' |
| 'Arctic Blast' 'Atlantis' | 'Galaxy' | 'Northern Lights' |
| 'Autumn Frost' | 'Glory Hallelujah' | 'Paradigm' |
| 'Big Daddy' | 'Gold Drop' | 'Pilgrim' |
| 'Bizarre' | 'Gold Standard' | 'Riptide' |
| 'Blackjack' | 'Golden Sculpture' | 'Skylight' |
| 'Blizzard' | 'Grand Prize' | 'Slick Willie' |
| 'Blue Angel' | 'Grand Slam' | 'Snake Eyes' |
| 'Blue Jay' | 'Great Expectations' | 'Snow Cap' |
| 'Blue Moon' | 'Ground Sulfur' | 'Snowden' |
| 'Bright Lights' | 'Guacamole' | 'Spilt Milk' |
| 'Bulletproof' | 'Hacksaw' | 'Stetson' |
| 'Cadillac' | 'High Society' | 'Sugar and Cream' |
| 'Camelot' | 'Hoosier Daddy' | 'Sum It Up' |
| 'Candy Dish' | 'Ice Age Trail' | 'Sun Kissed' |
| 'Cathedral Windows' | 'Ice Cream' | 'Sun Power' |
| 'Cerveza' | 'Ivory Coast' | 'Super Bowl' |
| 'Cherish' | Jade Cascade' | 'T Rex' |
| 'Chopsticks' | 'Joseph' | 'Tattoo' |
| 'Cold Heart' | 'June' | 'Teaspoon' |
| 'Continental Divide' | 'Justice' | 'Tiny Tears' |
| 'Corkscrew' | Key West' | 'Uncle Albert' |
| 'Cross Stitch' | 'King Tut' | 'Victory' |
| 'Curly Fries' | 'Komodo Dragon' | 'War Paint' |
| 'Cutting Edge' | 'Labyrinth' | 'Whirlwind' |
| 'Deep Blue Sea' | 'Lemon Lime' | 'World Cup' |

51. Opposite of little mama _____
52. Not quite, but... _____
53. Love is ... _____
54. Footware used in the Everglades

55. A tuxedo and evening gown e.g.

56. Set by the Federal Reserve _____
57. On a quarter _____
58. Used to make gun powder and matches

59. Strange, odd _____
60. Colorant used by Native Americans during
Battle _____
61. Rare lunar event _____
62. Parking area for dromedaries _____
63. Eating utensils of East Asia _____
64. Abundant financial resources _____
65. 1970's TV series featured Tattoo

66. The Milky Way, for example

67. Big lottery payout _____
68. Fictitious hybrid of 'Hoosier Dome' X
'Big Daddy' _____
69. A maze _____
70. Impenetrable to high velocity projectiles

71. Third of a tablespoon _____
72. Mashed avocados _____
73. Two citrus fruits _____
74. Church portholes _____
75. Produced when a baby cries

76. Paul McCartney Song _____
77. What you are burning when you work late

78. A strong rodent _____
79. Lake Erie's spillway _____
80. Two coins which equal 20cents _____
81. A cross current _____
82. Menu item at Arby's _____
83. Condiments for coffee _____
84. To give the conclusion _____
85. "With liberty and _____
For all"
86. Body marking _____
87. Chorus lie of the Battle Hymn

88. Freckled _____
89. He was in the pits after his brother stole his coat

90. Waters of the Marianas Trench

91. Declared by the winning team

92. An American early settler _____
93. Opposite of sloppy _____
94. A green fountain _____
95. "Nebraska" spelled backwards

96. When throwing dice, a pair of ones

97. Famous Egyptian pharaoh _____
98. Likely to occur during a cold spell after
Summer _____
99. Tool used before making a toast

100. A month with 30 days _____



GARDEN GOSSIP:

BY CINDY HUGHES

I hope you enjoy the Hosta MegaMatch Challenge prepared by Don Rawson. I found it fun. If you really need the answers, let me know.

As a consequence of the late spring frosts, many hosta growers have experienced strange effects on the leaves of emerging hostas. For some interesting comments and pictures look at the American Hosta Society Facebook page. Many have been concerned about symptoms that look like HVX. If you are concerned, both Jim Spuhler and I have test kits that should still be good.

BTW The Facebook page is a great place to learn and see hostas to dream about.

Club Co-Op Supplies

As in previous years, we are again offering our members Co-Op items. We have the following items available:

Liquid Fence

Plant Markers

Garden Gloves in small, medium, large and XL

Handbook on Troughs

Please call Carl Schmid at 330-264-8815 to pre-order these items to be brought to the next meeting. No individual deliveries.

Membership in NCHS gives the following benefits:

- * Members Only prices on Club "special purchase hosta"
- * Member prices on slug bait, fertilizer, deer repellent, etc.
- * Preferential registration and reduced registration fee for Hosta College
- * The club provides meat and beverages at all of our "Potluck" picnics and meetings.
- * The opportunity to learn and share information about hosta culture.
- * Developing friendships with other people who love hostas .

And Much, much more!

2020 North Coast Hosta Society Membership

Family Membership \$10.00 for one year - Calendar year Jan 1 - Dec 31

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

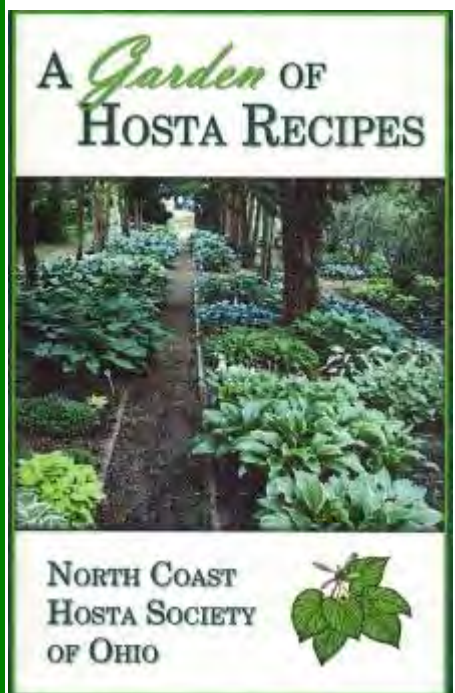
E-MAIL _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____ ()Renewal ()New ()1 year ()2 year

Please list names as you wish on your card: _____

Please send your check made payable to: NORTH COAST HOSTA SOCIETY
Attn: Jim Spuhler
13586 Bridgecreek Circle
Strongsville, OH 44136

NOTE: this form is also available on our website



Invite Other Plant Lovers to Join the Club

Check out our Website (northcoasthostasociety.weebly.com)
and Facebook page (North Coast Hosta Society).

INVITE A FRIEND



H. 'Blue Lollipop'

H. 'Blue Hawaii'



H. 'Blueberry Muffin'

FIRST CLASS



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