

Can I Propagate My Own Hostas

Most varieties of hostas do produce viable seed. The seed mature in pods after the hosta has finished flowering. If you are not interested in harvesting seed the spent flower scapes can be pruned which allows the hosta to devote more energy into maintaining its appearance. If you desire seed for propagation allow the seed pods to mature to the point of cracking open then cut and allow to finish drying in a cool dry spot. Once dry the seed are ready to plant. If seed are to be stored place them in a moisture proof zip lock bag and put them in the refrigerator or freezer until you are ready to plant. Most hosta seed will revert to their parentage and will produce solid green or gold seedlings. Variegation in seedlings is very rare!

The most popular way to propagate is by division. This process is best done before the hosta has produced leaves in the Spring or late summer/early fall. Divide the hosta by digging the entire plant, wash off all the soil, and cut between the divisions with a sharp knife. You can either plant the divisions in the ground or pot them up. Be sure to keep them moist and fertilize as soon as you see new growth beginning. Hostas respond well to division but they will exhibit some juvenile characteristics the first year after being divided. The following year the new division will be well on its way to maturity.



Membership Information

The Greater Ozarks Hosta Society is a non profit organization serving hosta lovers in the Southwest Missouri-Northwest Arkansas area. We are devoted to promoting knowledge and interest in the genus hosta. We are a diverse group of plant lovers that use the excuse of hosta to get together and share our collective gardening experience. As a group we enjoy sharing our gardens with others, work collectively on our public garden at Close Memorial Park, hold public shows and sales, conduct tours to members and other public gardens, speak to garden clubs and organizations to promote the #1 shade perennial, and to gather and socialize with fellow gardeners.

Annual Membership to the Greater Ozarks Hosta Society for a family is \$7.50 per calendar year. You may send your membership check along with your mailing an email addresses to:

Joyce Charles
4935 Oxynard
Springfield, MO. 65810

Take this invitation to join us. Enjoy the opportunity to chat with like minded gardeners, share or trade hostas along with other plant material, join us for our annual hosta auction, enjoy members only garden visits, and keep abreast of what is happening throughout the horticultural community in Southwest Missouri.

Planting & Caring For your Hostas

Presented by
**THE GREATER
OZARKS
HOSTA SOCIETY**

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**Devoted to Americas
#1 Shade Perennial**

WHERE SHOULD I PLANT MY HOSTAS

Hostas grow best in the shade, but they will tolerate some sun. Here in the heat of the Summer they should be positioned so most of the direct sunlight would be in the morning when the sun rays are not so hot and harsh. Too much sun in our midsummer heat will burn or bake them. Hostas really prefer dappled shade but when tree cover is so dense plants are deprived of rain showers and air circulation is poor.

Hostas need fertile soil rich in organic matter and a slightly acidic PH of 6 to 7. A few varieties will grow in heavy clay soils which are loaded with nutrients but those conditions cause slow growth and maturity in plants. Hostas love compost, well rotted manure, and coarse grit which will help drainage.

When you plant or transplant a hosta, the hole should be half again the width and depth of the root ball. Hosta roots do not normally grow deeper than 12 inches but like to grow sideways beyond the drip line of the plant as it matures, Place the crown of the hosta above ground level and mound up soil around it. As the soil settles the plant will sink slightly. Mulch and water well.



How Do I Care for My Hostas

Building up your garden with compost and the addition of a layer of mulch to help hold moisture is the best thing you can do for hostas. Organic mulches such as shredded leaves or decomposed plant material will also enrich the soil as they break down. Just do not pack mulches too close to the crowns of the hosta as the plant needs to breathe.

Like most plants hostas crave water to look their best and the best type of irrigation is rain. An inch of rain per week is ideal for hostas. Sad to say that here in our area we either get downpours or extended dry spells. Balance the environment with an application of moisture using either drip or sprinkler irrigation. Give this supplemental water a

chance to soak in by watering early in the morning. Avoid watering late in the afternoon. Plants that remain wet at night are more frequently bothered with pests, fungus, or disease.

Hostas are heavy feeders so an application of time released fertilizer early in the Spring will provide for optimum growth throughout the growing season.

What About Pests or Diseases

With proper care and attention hostas can escape the ravages of most garden pests. Slugs and snails love the tender shoots as they emerge in the Spring. There are multiple types of slug baits in the marketplace. If you will make one application of bait in the Spring as the hostas emerge and again in the Fall just as the hostas freeze back will eradicate most of your slug/snail problems. Read and follow label directions. Deer love hosta leaves. If you are in an area frequented by deer apply deterrents according to label directions....and Good Luck!!!

Moles burrow in your yard not for hostas but for grubs. The runs moles make provide runs for voles (meadow mice) which relish root systems of hostas and many other plants. Deterrents for voles include baited traps under large plastic pots, ground vibrators, and animal urines. If all else fails plant your hostas in wire mesh or plastic baskets to keep voles away from the crowns and root systems. Keep leaf piles that tend to congregate around flower beds cleaned up during the Winter. Leaf piles provide cover for all sorts of plant pests.

