

THE CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY

THE HOSTA CONNECTION

APRIL 5, 2014

1 O'CLOCK

OOLTEWAH NURSERY

SPEAKER: JIM TATE



Notes from the Editor

Looks like 'old man winter', has hung around longer than he should have, if he raises his ugly cold head again, maybe the article I found can be of some help. We are supposed to be having Spring --- "it said so on the Calendar".

I know we've had a couple of Spring like days, Johnny and I have been busy playing catch-up from the past 3 years. This is the first year, since Johnny's cancer that he is back 100%. We've cleaned up all the areas where we had thrown, sawed down dead trees, their branches and other articles of gardening things we didn't need or use anymore, Johnny restacked the wood that was usable.

I've been wanting to rearrange my potting bench and the area it is located in, find a different place to stack and store stones, bricks and paver's (this we're still working on). I have to admit Johnny has done most of the heavy lifting and cleaning with just a little help from me when needed me, but the majority of the clean up -Johnny did .

Bob Solberg, had an article about how long it takes to damage hostas when the temperature drops. I couldn't find his article so I goggled the web --- here is one of the articles that I found. Hope this is informative.

A GARDENERS GUIDE TO FROST

taken from, Farmers Almanac, web site

Clear or Cloudy Sky?

Frost (also called white or hardfrost) occurs when air temperatures dip below 32°F and

ice crystals form on plant leaves, injuring, and sometimes killing, tender plants. Clear, calm skies and falling afternoon temperatures are usually the perfect conditions for frost. If the temperatures are falling fast under clear, windy skies-especially when the wind is out of the northwest-it may indicate the approach of a mass of polar air and a hard freeze. A hard or killing frost is based on movements of large, cold air masses. The result is below-freezing temperatures that generally kill all the most cold-tolerant plants.

Cloudy Skies: you may be in luck.

If the temperature is cool, but clouds are visible, your plants may be protected. During the day, the sun's radiant heat warms the earth. After the sun sets, the heat radiates upward, which lowers the temperatures at or near the ground. However, if the night sky has clouds, these clouds will trap the heat and keep the warmer temperatures lower, closer to your plants, preventing a frost.

Wind?

Wind also influences frost. If the air is still and windless, the coldest air settles to the ground. The temperature at plant level may be freezing, even though at eye level it isn't. A gentle breeze, however, will prevent the cold air from settling and keep temperatures higher, protecting your plants. If the wind itself is below freezing, frost may be very damaging.

Moisture?

Humidity and moisture are good things when talking frost. When moisture condenses out of humid air, it releases enough heat to sometimes save your plants. When the air is dry, the moisture in the soil will evaporate. Evaporation requires heat, which removes warmth that could save your vegetables.

Location, location, location.

The location of your garden can have a tremendous influence on whether or not an early frost could wipe out your garden, but leave your neighbor's alone. As a general rule, the temperature drops 3°F to 5°F with every 1,000-foot increase in altitude. The higher your garden, the colder the average air temperature and the more likely your plants will be hit by an early freeze. However, lower isn't always better. Cold air is heavier than warm air and tends to sink to the lowest areas, causing frost damage. The best location for an annual garden is on a gentle, south-facing slope that's well heated by late-afternoon sun and protected from blustery north winds. A garden surrounded by buildings or trees or one near a body of water is also less likely to become frost covered.

Soil.

The type of soil your garden is growing in also affects the amount of moisture it holds. Deep, loose, heavy, fertile soil releases more moisture into the surrounding air than thin, sandy, or nutrient-poor soil. The more humid the air is, the higher the dew point will be, and the less likely that frost will form on those plants. Heavily mulched plants are more likely to become frosted since the mulch prevents moisture and heat from escaping out of the soil and warming the surrounding air.

The plant itself determines its likelihood of frost damage. Immature plants still sporting new growth into the fall are most susceptible-especially the new growth. Frost tolerance tends to be higher in plants with maroon or bronze leaves, because such leaves absorb and retain heat. Downy- or hairy-leaved plants also retain heat. Compact plants

expose a smaller proportion of their leaves to cold and drying winds. By the same token, closely spaced plants protect each other. Keep the soil moist by watering your plants the day a frost is predicted. Commercial fruit and vegetable growers leave sprinklers on all night to cover plants with water. As the water freezes, it releases heat, protecting the plants, even though they're covered by ice. To prevent damage, the sprinklers need to run continuously as long as temperatures remain below freezing.

COLD TEMPERATURE EFFECTS ON PLANTS AND VEGETATION

FROST: Damage depends upon length of frost duration.

LIGHT FREEZE: 29 degrees F to 32 degrees F / -2 degrees C to 0 degrees C. Tender plants killed with little destructive effect on other vegetation.

MODERATE FREEZE: 25 degrees F to 28 degrees F / -4 degrees C to -2 degrees C. Wide destruction on most vegetation with heavy damage to fruit blossoms and tender semi-hardy plants.

SEVERE FREEZE: 24 degrees F / -4 degrees C and colder. Heavy damage to most plants.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are very excited how our June meeting is taking shape. We will be meeting at the East Ridge Community Center. At this meeting, our club members will be having our very own "FUN WITH HOSTAS" show. Everyone is asked to participate!!! Each club member or guest will bring at least two cut Hosta leaves for display and conversation. There will also be a category for your favorite potted Hosta plant. Our Hosta fun leaf show will have these categories: biggest, smallest, bluest, most yellow, ugliest, your favorite Hosta (leaf), prettiest potted Hosta plant. (Bring any size pot that you can carry!!!) Please put leaves in clear water bottles if possible. As you can certainly tell by reading this far, it will not be your usual Hosta leaf show. Like I said, this should be fun!! Also, maybe if all of us can put our thinking caps on, we could help identify some unknown leaves too. If you can think of any other "fun" categories, just let us know and we'll add them. Meanwhile, I'll see everyone in April at Ooltewah Nursery for our May meeting which will be held at Ken and Judy Hill's home for our spring picnic and auction. YEAH! Spring is finally here!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Carol

Watch for more information in our next Newsletter about the Fun Leaf Show: we'll have more fun things to do. No one will have the excuse of not participating, because, 'everyone has an ugly leaf'

DIFFERENT HOSTA SIZES

HOSTA SIZE	LEAVES	MATURE PLANT
Dwarf	2.0 square inches	4 inches tall
Miniature	2.0 to 6.0 square inches	4 to 6 inches tall
Small	6.0 to 25 square inches	6 to 10 inches tall
Medium	25 to 81 square inches	10 to 18 inches tall
Large	81 to 144 square inches	18 to 28 inches tall
Giant	144 square inches - plus	28 inches tall and taller

PREVIOUS HOSTA OF THE YEAR

2014 ABIQUA DRINKING GOURD	2005 STRIPTEASE
2013 RAINFOREST SUNRISE	2004 SUM AND SUBSTANCE
2012 LIBERTY	2003 REGAL SPLENDOR
2011 PRAYING HANDS	2002 GUACAMOLE
2010 FIRST FROST	2001 JUNE
2009 EARTH ANGEL	2000 SAGAE
2008 BLUE MOUSE EARS	1999 PAUL'S GLORY
2007 PARADIGM	1998 FRAGRANT BOUQUET
2006 STAINED GLASS	1997 PATRIOT

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THINGS TO WATCH FOR

**MAY 3, 2014 MEETING
PICNIC & PLANT AUCTION**

**JUDY & KEN HILL'S
HOME & GARDENS
12 ' OCLOCK**

**START POTTING UP YOUR PLANTS
ALL & ANY KIND OF PLANTS**

HOPE TO SEE YOU SATURDAY, APRIL 5, AT 1 PM. = = = .SHIRLEY