

THE CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY



THE HOSTA CONNECTION



**MAY 7, 2016
12 O'CLOCK
PICNIC - GARDEN TOUR
& PLANT AUCTION AT
TAMMY FISHER & GARY JACOBY
GARDEN**



Notes from the Editor

*Spring is here, time for our Picnic, bring a covered dish and a smile,
(Oh yeah.....plants for the auction)*

*Tammy and Gary are opening their garden for our Picnic, I'm
looking forward to seeing all the wonderful plants they have.*

*We are having our Auction this year at their home , Barn Nursery
sells plants – we don't want to compete with them.*

*To the new members and visitors, “we just don't auction hostas – we
auction everything, sun, shade, not so sunny and not to shady plants.*

*If it grows in your garden and you have enough to share --- go dig it
up – I can guarantee it will be sold.*

*Judy Nowlin is bringing the red hosta 'First Blush' to the picnic, they
will be \$20 some of you have said you want one, there are I think 4
extra unspoken for Hostas*

Judy Rhymer is bringing two different kinds of Hostas cost \$10 each, paid members will choose a hosta to take home complements from the Hosta Society

DIRECTIONS TO TAMMY AND GARY'S HOME:

Go South on I-75 to exit 345 --- turn left on 41 Hwy North - turn right on Hwy 2--- turn left on Keith Rd --- keep left on Rhyne Ln ---- House number is 3365 Rhyne Ln --- Tammy said she would have some ballons out.

Tammy's cell phone: 423-277-8223

Hostas

Updated May 28, 2015.

[Hostas](#) are shade plants, right? Not necessarily. Hostas are usually termed 'shade-tolerant' plants, meaning they will grow in shade or partial shade. But shade might not be their ideal growing condition. Some hostas need a period of [full sun](#) to look and perform their best.

It is not recommended that any Hosta be in full sun all the time, but many Hostas are more vigorous and display their most vibrant colors if given at least some sun exposure.

A Quick Rule of Thumb

Hostas with yellow leaves or [fragrant flowers](#) can stand more sun than Hostas with green, blue or white leaves.

There are, of course, always exceptions and you may know of a Hosta that is basking and thriving in full sun, but that is not rule.

Hostas for Full Sun: Yellow and Fragrant Hostas.

In general, yellow hostas need to be planted in a sunny location to keep their yellow color vibrant. Without at least a couple of hours of full sun, the yellow color will fade to green, or worse, look like a green leaf that is yellowing.

Similarly, fragrant hostas, those in the species *H. plantaginea*, need exposure to sun to develop their flowers. *H. plantaginea* is one of the most heat tolerant Hosta species.

Keep in mind, the heat experienced in a full sun location can vary from area to area and even during different times of the day. Full sun in the morning hours will not be as intense as [full sun](#) at noon. While yellow and fragrant hostas need some sun exposure, they do not like to bake or fry in the sun. So if your site is extremely hot or dry, you will need to keep any hostas sitting in full sun well watered.

Hostas for Partial Shade: Green, Blue and White

No Hosta is going to thrive in deep shade. They all need some sunlight to photosynthesize. The shade tolerant varieties seem to do best in an exposure of morning sun and afternoon shade. Too much sun exposure will result in burned leaves, starting from the edges inward. They will look brown and dry, like the leaves in the photo to the right.

Blue hostas require the most protection from the sun. This is because the blue color is actually a waxy coating on the leaves. The leaves themselves are a shade of green. The waxy coating gives them a blue tint. In full, hot sun, this waxy coating melts and exposes the green leaf underneath, changing the color of your plant from blue to green. It could also expose the leaves to burning. Spraying the leaves with a pesticide or fertilizer can also cause the waxy coating to melt.

Special Consideration: White Hostas

Unfortunately, only trial and error can tell you which Hostas with [white variegation](#) can tolerate full sun without burning. The thicker the leaves, the more tolerant they will be of full sun. White variegated Hostas with thin leaves, like 'White Christmas', should be confined to [partial shade](#) to maintain their best appearance.

Another problem with white variegated hostas is that the leaves are white because they have minimal amounts of chlorophyll. In full sun, the chlorophyll

levels can increase and cause the leaves to pick up a green cast and look less variegated. So only morning sun is recommended for white variegated hostas and the thinner the leaves, the less sun.

Let Your Hosta Tell You When It's Had Too Much Sun

You can follow the rules and choose the recommend plants and still not have success. The only real gauge for how sun tolerant a plant is, is how it is performing. There are two clear signs that tell you your Hosta is getting too much sun:

1. Browning on the tips or outside edges of leaves
2. Dull color or faded spots on leaves

If your Hosta plants aren't doing as well as you would like, don't be afraid to move them. Hostas are strong plants ad can withstand digging and replanting.

VIRUS X

Host Plants: Hostas are the only known plant to be infected by this virus.

Pathogen: The disease causing organism is a virus particle in the potex group. (That's where the X comes from.) The virus particles are so small they only can be seen with an electron microscope. This virus can only reproduce inside living hosta cells and once inside the plant they remain there for the life of the plant.

Symptoms: Stunted growth, leaf distortion and various patterns of leaf discoloration are common symptoms of this disease. The symptoms vary among different cultivars. Rarely will Hosta Virus X kill a plant, but it can make plants unsalable.

Spread: Unlike many plant viruses, insects are not known to spread this disease. Any type of a mechanical injury that moves plant fluids, however, can transmit this virus. Thus, virus spread can occur from pruning tools when cutting off old leaves or removing flower scapes. Other possible means of spread in the landscape include string trimmers, shovels and even manual transmission, if hands become contaminated with sap from infected plants. **Control:** There is no cure for infected plants. The best means for avoiding this disease is to carefully inspect all plants before they enter the nursery or landscape. Unfortunately in recent years a large percentage of certain varieties of hostas available from wholesalers were infected with this virus. Check with your source of plants and see if they have a testing program - or consider having suspect plants tested yourself. A test for hosta viruses will cost at least \$25, so testing will be most appropriate when deciding whether to discard a large number of plants.

Some of the hosta cultivars that are most often found to be infected in nurseries and garden centers include Gold Edger, Gold Standard, Golden Tiara and Sum and Substance. Watch these cultivars especially carefully for virus symptoms, and discard suspicious plants. [Taken from Cornell University Diagnostic Clinic](#)

"The best way to garden is to put on a wide-brimmed straw hat and some old clothes. And with a hoe in one hand and a cold drink in the other, tell somebody else where to dig."