

# THE CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL HOSTA SOCIETY



THE HOSTA CONNECTION

OCTOBER 13, 2018

MEETING 1 PM

HOME PLATE GRILL

7807 Nashville Street  
Ringgold, GA



*Notes from the Editor*

*We are meeting on a different Saturday, October 13, we are meeting in Ringgold at the Home Plate Grill at 1 pm. The Society will be paying for lunch. Ruby is making the plans call her at: 706 -280 -5911 rsvp*

## LAST DAY OF SUMMER

By Shade Tolerant

Last day of summer, what a bummer,  
Hostas startin' to die, Think I'm gonna cry,  
So long Fire and Ice, It's been very nice,  
See ya Christmas Candy, Sure has been dandy,  
Wait what's this I hear, Hosta seeds, have no fear,  
Who can say or who can know? What luscious seedlings you can grow?  
Give it a try and you just may see, A cool streaked one, just like me,

So happy rest of summer all, This poem is corny, but I had a ball.

## HOSTAS IN THE FALL

Melissa Lewis; Updated September 21, 2017

Hostas are one of those plants that many gardeners love. They typically need little care to thrive and get bigger year to year without much effort. They excel in shady areas and rarely need to be watered unless there are drought-like conditions. Gardeners should perform maintenance in the fall, however, to help Hosta plants thrive even more. This is especially important if they are transplanted plants or had problems with slugs.

Cut off and throw away any diseased or damaged foliage in the fall, before the dormant season, which is winter. This will keep your plant healthy for next season. You can, in fact, cut down all the foliage, if desired, after it has turned brown.

Control slugs, if you haven't already and you have had problems in the past. (You have seen slugs and seen chewed holes in the Hostas leaves.) Choose from several remedies. Use commercial slug baits that use iron phosphate as its main ingredient. Place the traps in cool moist areas, such as under the Hostas' foliage. The slugs will eat it and die. Or use a home remedy, such as a beer trap. Dig a hole about 5 inches deep to fit a small container. Place the container in the [soil](#) so the top is even with the top of the soil and fill it with beer. Leave an inch of space near the top so the slugs will lean in and fall. Repeat these slug control measures in the spring, when the leaves first appear.

Clear away any debris, especially leaves and rotted plants, from the top of your soil bed. Debris could also be a haven for slugs during the winter and will help rid your garden of slugs before next year's new growth.

[Mulch](#) in the fall. If applicable, wait to [mulch](#) until after the ground has frozen to the depth of about 3 inches. Although mulching is generally not necessary for winter protection, it is needed for plants that were recently transplanted. Use a fine mulch such as pine needles so slugs do not find haven in your Hosta bed.

David Hobso

*Gardening and laughing are two of the best things in life you can do to promote good health and a sense of well being.*

"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."

by Texas Bix Bender

## Hosta Division In The Fall

Fall division is also an approximately four-week window. In the northern climates this is going to be the month of September and, as you go south, that window for dividing Hostas moves later into October. Cool moist weather is what you want. Make your decision based on the long-range weather forecasts.

Why Are You Dividing Your Hosta? Why do you divide Hosta? I bring this up because I get the sense from some customers that they divide them too often.

What You Need To Know: Generally, lifting and dividing Hosta's is setting them back several years in maturity. How far you set them back depends on how much root system is lost in the process. So, the question that you should be asking yourself before you proceed to divide your hostas is this: How many plants do you need and how far back in maturity are you willing to set them?

Hosta Plants Only Improve With Age When They Are In The Right Location

Some of the giant or jumbo Hosta cultivars do not reach maturity for five years and they continue to improve in appearance as the overall clump expands. Hostas may reach a space limit and slowdown in growth, but they rarely decline from space constriction. If they are in decline, it is more likely a poor site for that cultivar. They should be relocated to a more suitable location.

*I have some sad news to share, on September 7, my sister Carol passed away. She had been sick for a long time but nothing at the point of death. Two weeks ago she was admitted to the hospital with congestive heart failure and blood clots in her lungs – her roller coaster ride began, one day she would be good - next day bad, sugar was always a problem. Ten days later the doctors discovered the blood thinner was causing her to bleed internally, she was moved to ICU and stabilized. She was in ICU 4 days -*

*the fourth day the suggestion of surgery came up but her vital signs did not support surgery. Carol knew the end was close, all the family and close friends were with her, after we said our goodbyes - she told the nurse she was ready, the nurse unhooked her machines and about 5 minutes later Carol slowly passed.*