



Cottage Garden Services The Specialist in Organic Gardening

“Useful Tips for Your Garden” - Fact Sheet n. 1

- Hostas (the most versatile ground covering plant) -

The Hosta is a garden plant, which thrives in the shade and grows well around ponds. Some of the varieties will flourish in full sun provided that the soil is well moistened; however, if they are planted in a shady position, they will do even better.

Over the last few years, Hostas have become increasingly popular, and they have are now considered very suitable for pot and tub culture. In fact, a large specimen growing in a container can become the garden’s focal point with its wide and colourful leaves, ranging from darkest green to golden yellow.

The ideal time to plant Hostas in open ground is from early to late autumn with a liberal amount of compost (see fact sheet n. 4 “Compost heap”) around the base of the plant. This will provide a good start before the oncoming growing season. They can be planted either in groups of threes or more or individually.

Once established, they will form excellent ground cover, dying back in the winter in a range of autumn colours, then bursting into life again in the spring. The leaves will come out in mid spring, usually in April, and the flowers will appear between mid summer and early autumn; some of them nicely scented and the colours varying from white to purple/blue.

If planted in a container, it should be as large as possible, at least 18” wide and 15” deep to give the Hosta plenty of root space. The utilised container will have drainage holes, and gravel or small stones will also be placed at the bottom to assist drainage. Adding a good quality potting compost (“Bonemeal”, for instance) and supplying the Hosta weekly with a nutritious plant feeder will surely give you excellent results.

Here is a list of some Hosta varieties suitable either for pot culture or open ground planting.

- Pot culture -

- ◆ *fortunei* 'Albopicta' : bright yellow leaves edged green in spring, greening all over later.
- ◆ 'Royal Standard' : glossy mid-green leaves, makes an impressive mound. White scented flowers borne in August, from lilac-tinged buds.
- ◆ 'Honeybells' : medium sized, light green leaves, vigorous. Scented white flowers touched with mauve in August.
- ◆ 'August Moon' : one of the best yellow-golds with large corrugated leaves. Best in shady positions. Vigorous plant with near-white flowers.
- ◆ *undulata* 'Albomarginata' (Thomas Hogg) : one of the best varieties. Very showy and fast growing. Green leaves with purple flowers.
- ◆ 'Krossa Regal' : Blue-grey medium sized leaves. Growing tall up to 2/3' in height with pinky-lilac flowers.

- Open ground -

- ◆ *fortunei* : Vigorous with large green leaves and pale lilac flowers. Once established makes a strong clump of ground covering plants.
- ◆ *sieboldiana* 'Elegans' : large blue leaves and white flowers. Very popular for its strong growth.
- ◆ 'Francee' : one of the best *fortunei* selections with white edged dark green leaves. Spectacular in a dark corner. Vigorous.
- ◆ *fortunei* 'Aureomarginata' : Rich dark green leaves with yellow border and mauve flowers. One of the very best.

Other Fact Sheets are available for: 2 – Ground Covering Plants; 3 – Garden Maintenance; 4 – Organic Gardening & Compost Heap; 5 – The Wildlife Garden