



Hosta Happenings

East Tennessee Hosta Society

May 2020

President's Message

I created a [video from photos](#) taken on the 18/19th April when the gardens would have been open to the public in coordination with the Dogwood Arts committee. The April date was selected because that is when the dogwoods are blooming. I do have about 200 dogwoods on the property but most of them are hard to see. Since these photos were taken about three weeks ago – the gardens have really leafed out since and looks completely different. Sorry this video has been delayed – I just got really busy in the garden.

I am thinking the peak time for my garden is May /June. Maybe we can do some physical tours by the end of May. I hope you have been active during your isolation and are staying safe.

Warm Regards
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Rohdea: The Sacred Lily of Japan and China

By Cornelia B. Holland

I have been growing Rohdea for over 20 years and find it to be an excellent evergreen companion plant to hosta. The genus is named for the German botanist Michael Rohde (1782-1812). *Rohdea japonica*, one of several species in the genus in the *Asparagaceae* (asparagus) Family, is commonly called Omoto in Japan (meaning big base or thicket base). Genetically there are two types based on DNA analysis – wild and cultivated. Native to Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Nepal and Southeast China.

Rohdea and *Hosta* are taxonomically, closely related. *Rohdea* is even more closely related to *Aspidistra*, *Convallaria*, *Polygonatum* and *Sansevieria*.

R. Go DaiShu 2010



(Continued on page 4)

ETHS Calendar

POSTPONED - April 26, Sunday, :2:00 pm:
Garden Tour of Hella Peterson. Future date **TBD**

POSTPONED - From May 28 – 30, 2020 to
June 3 - 5, 2021: Dixie Region Convention

June 10—13: AHS Convention

June 27, Saturday, 10:30 am: Garden Tour, TBD

July 25, Saturday, 10:30 am: Garden Tour, TBD

August 23, Sunday, 10:30 am:: Presentation by
Bob Solberg at Anderson Estate

September 19, Saturday, time TBD: Plant
Nursery Tour

October 25, Sunday, time TBD: Fall Garden
Tour

November 22, Sunday, 2:00 pm: End of Year
Meeting, annual general meeting and social

Hostas for Warm Climates

By Dennis Carey and Tony Avent, Published February
2005 (minor revisions by Mary Albrecht, 2020)

From [https://www.plantdelights.com/blogs/articles/hostas-for-warm-climates?](https://www.plantdelights.com/blogs/articles/hostas-for-warm-climates?fbclid=IwAR1spSin2LiYmbamsYcObu0IOERnERuBthWXizITqyQopxWclvrTPasFi7Q)
[fbclid=IwAR1spSin2LiYmbamsYcObu0IOERnERuBthWXizITqyQopxW](https://www.plantdelights.com/blogs/articles/hostas-for-warm-climates?fbclid=IwAR1spSin2LiYmbamsYcObu0IOERnERuBthWXizITqyQopxWclvrTPasFi7Q)
[clvrTPasFi7Q](https://www.plantdelights.com/blogs/articles/hostas-for-warm-climates?fbclid=IwAR1spSin2LiYmbamsYcObu0IOERnERuBthWXizITqyQopxWclvrTPasFi7Q), retrieved April 22, 2020

Hostas prefer climates with cold winters and warm summers. For gardeners in southern climates, particularly USDA Zones 9-10, picking the right Hosta can be a daunting task. Fortunately, East Tennessee is in USDA Zones 6a (highest elevations of the Plateau and Smokey Mountains) through 8a (Chattanooga)

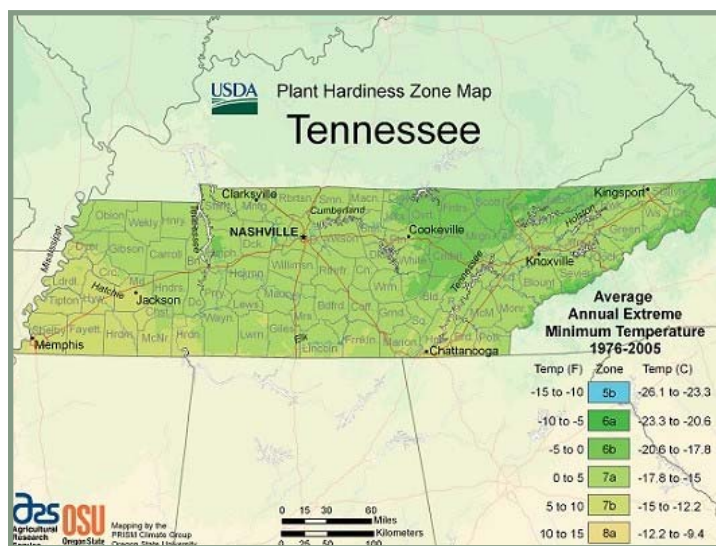


Photo from <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/Images/300dpi/TN.jpg>

Most Hostas must have a minimum winter dormancy requirement of 30 days at temperatures below 43 degrees F. In warmer southern regions, the Hostas that perform their best are those that have lower than normal winter dormancy requirements. The required winter dormancy for a *Hosta* is genetic and is based on the part of the world where the species involved in a particular hybrid originated (warm climate versus cold). The *Hosta* species which have evolved in the warmest climates and therefore have the lowest chill requirements include *Hosta clausa*, *Hosta gracillima*, *Hosta kikutii*, *Hosta longipes*, *Hosta montana* (southern forms), *Hosta*

(Continued on page 3)

**American Hosta Society
National Convention
Postponed to 2022
Minneapolis MN**

For more info on 2022, go
to <https://hostavision2020.com/>

**2021 will be in
Kalamazoo, MI. Stay
tuned for more info.**



nakaiana, *Hosta plantaginea*, *Hosta rupifraga*, *Hosta sieboldii*, *Hosta ventricosa*, *Hosta venusta*, and *Hosta yingeri*. While all *Hosta* will emerge the following spring after a low-chill winter, they are usually quite weak and proceed to deteriorate during the subsequent season.

The easiest way to determine the dormancy requirements is to observe which *Hosta* emerge the earliest in spring. There is generally a 75-day emergence date spread between *Hosta* cultivars in spring. Below is a list of those that emerge extremely early and would make good candidates for trialing in warm climates where there is little or no winter chilling.

Beside each cultivar name are the low-chill species (where known) from which they are derived.

With Variegated Foliage

'American Sweetheart' (unknown)
'Anne Arett' (*Hosta sieboldii*)
'Bob Olson' (unknown)
'Carolina Sunshine' (*Hosta tibae*)
'Cathedral Windows' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
'Cherish' (*Hosta venusta*)
'Chickadee' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
'Crested Surf' (*Hosta sieboldii*)
'Diamond Tiara' (*Hosta nakaiana*)
'Diana Remembered' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
'Dixie Chick' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
'Ebb Tide' (*Hosta montana*)
'Emerald Tiara' (*Hosta nakaiana*)
'Emily Dickinson' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
'Fan Dance' (*Hosta sieboldii*)
'Fatal Attraction' (*Hosta kikutii*)
'Fragrant Bouquet' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
'Gala' (*Hosta longipes*)
'Golden Tiara' (*Hosta nakaiana*)
'Grand Prize' (*Hosta nakaiana*)
'Grand Tiara' (*Hosta nakaiana*)
'Guacamole' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
'Harpoon' (*Hosta yingeri*)
'Holy Mole' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
'Iron Gate Delight' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
kikutii 'Kifukurin' (*Hosta kikutii*)
'Kifukurin Ko Mame' (unknown)
'Korean Snow' (*Hosta yingeri*)
'Masquerade' (*Hosta gracillima*)
'Ming Treasure' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
'Mistress Mabel' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
'Miss Saigon' (*Hosta plantaginea*)

montana 'Aureomarginata' (*Hosta montana*)
'Peedee Gold Flash' (*Hosta sieboldii*)
'Platinum Tiara' (*Hosta nakaiana*)
'Red Hot Flash' (*Hosta sieboldii*)
'Sea Thunder' (unknown)
'Scooter' (*Hosta sieboldii*)
'So Sweet' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
'Stained Glass' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
'Stiletto' (*Hosta sieboldii*)
'Sugar and Cream' (*Hosta plantaginea*, *sieboldii*)
'Summer Fragrance' (*Hosta plantaginea*, *sieboldii*)
'Sweetie' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
'Teeny Weeny Bikini' (unknown)
'Verna Jean' (*Hosta sieboldii*)
'Warwick Edge' (*Hosta nakaiana*)
'Waving Winds' (*Hosta sieboldii*)
'White Necklace' (unknown)

With Green Foliage

clausa (species)
'Crystal Chimes' (*Hosta yingeri*)
'Fall Bouquet' (*Hosta longipes*)
'Fourth of July' (*Hosta kikutii*)
'Hirao Splendor' (*Hosta kikutii*)
'Honeybells' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
'Invincible' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
'Jade Cascade' (*Hosta montana*)
laevigata (species)
'Old Faithful' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
'Otome No Ka' (unknown)
pachyscapa (species)
'Purple Lady Fingers' (*Hosta clausa*)
pycnophylla (species)
'Potomac Pride' (*Hosta yingeri*)
'Raspberry Sorbet' (*Hosta rupifraga*)
'Rippled Honey' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
'Savannah' (*Hosta plantaginea*, *sieboldii*)
'Stingray' (*Hosta kikutii*, *montana*)
'Sweet Bo Peep' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
takahashii 'Gosan' (species)
'Teaspoon' (*Hosta venusta*)
tibae (species)
'Tortifrons' (*Hosta longipes*)
tsushimensis (species)
venusta (species)
'Waving Wuffles' (*Hosta ventricosa*)
yingeri (species)

With Gold Foliage

'Birchwood Parky's Gold' (*Hosta nakaiana*)
'Chartreuse Wiggles' (*Hosta sieboldii*)
'Fried Bananas' (*Hosta plantaginea*)
'Gold Scepter' (*Hosta nakaiana*)
longipes 'Golden Dwarf' (species)

'Sweet Tater Pie' (*Hosta yingeri, nakaiana*)

With Blue Foliage

'Baby Bunting' (*Hosta venusta*)

'Blue Belle' (*Hosta longipes*)

'Blue Blush' (*Hosta longipes*)

'Silver Bowl' (unknown)

(Continued from page 1) *Rohdea*

Hardy to USDA Zones 5 to 10, *Rohdea* is extremely slow growing and propagated by seeds that have been stratified (cold treated). Pollination is by gnats and slugs (yes, slugs!). Special attributes may take up to 3-10 years to develop.

Reportedly, *Rohdea* handles sandy to clay soil, wet to dry conditions. The key is maintaining good drainage. Each spring the *Rohdea* in my garden are sprayed several times with Miracle Gro Tomato Food, as are the *Hosta*. If grown in pots, soilless medium is preferred to provide good drainage. According to Don Shadow, pine bark and coarse sand works well for containers. Keep an eye out for tomato virus, *Phomopsis* (fungal disease), and anthracnose cause by *Colletotrichum liriopes* first reported in 2013 in Korea (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30722254>). I have found spraying early and late during the growing season with Fertiloam II Fungicide to be effective in alleviating the "red spots" frequently seen.

R. Gunjaku 2013 Tranquility



Oddly enough, tissue culture of *Rohdea* has been an utter failure and given the current prices of *Rohdea* in Japan, there is little interest in tissue culture. The Japanese grow and show *Rohdea*. The Chinese scientifically study the genus, and the chemical Rohdexin which is used to treat heart disease.

Six hundred Japanese cultivars of *Rohdea* are registered and classified by sizes, (Ooba, Chuuba, and Koba) and attributes. AHS Hosta Shows are similar to *Rohdea* Shows.

- Ooba (oh-bah) = big leaf > 30 cm
 - Greater than 12"
 - also called Satsuma Omoto
- Chuuba (choo-oo-bah) = middle sized leaf = 15-25 cm
 - 5.9" to 12"
- Koba (koh-bah) = small leaf = 3-15 cm
 - Less than 5.9"
 - Use parents with inferior genes for hybridizing

For more information, see the full slide show posted to the Education page of the ETHE website (<http://eastnhostasociety.weebly.com/education.html>) or join Omoto Collectors on Facebook for an extensive presentation on the genus.

If interested in seed or to learn more, contact me by email (plantaginea@comcast.net).

Spring in Members' Gardens



From Alan Solomon, emerging hosta.

(Continued on page 6)

Debunking Gardening Myths

Myth #3: Herbicides are bad; I only use natural methods.

Let's start with the definition of a weed:

1. A wild plant growing where it is not wanted and in competition with cultivated plants. (Merriam-Webster)
2. A valueless plant growing wild, especially one that grows on cultivated ground to the exclusion or injury of the desired crop (Dictionary.com)
3. Any wild plant that grows in an unwanted place, especially in a garden or field where it is not wanted. (Cambridge Dictionary)

Each of these definitions makes qualifications for what the unwanted plant is (wild or valueless) and where the plant is growing (with cultivated plants, desired crops, garden or field). The simplest definition is

A weed is a plant growing where you don't want it.



This removes judgement as to whether or not the plant is a “wild” plant or a “desirable” plant. Let's face it, we have what were considered desirable at some point in history and is now considered a weed. We also have some plants that we considered weeds and now consider desirable. Consider the poor dandelion brought to this

country as a desirable plant, once used as a edible green. It escaped from the garden and became “weedy.” We remove it from lawns and gardens. Yet, today, there are those who say leave it be, it's a host for pollinators.

So, go back to the definition of a plant growing where you don't want it to decide whether or not to remove it.

There are those who would recommend the following for weed control.

- Rock salt (NaCl, sodium chloride). The Romans used this on fields of those they conquered to destroy their crops. It also is not good for the soil. It accumulates in the soil with repeated use and ruins soil structure.
- Bleach (NAClO, sodium hypochlorid) will kill not only the target plant but also soil organisms like worms and beneficial microorganisms. It is extremely alkaline and non-selective (indiscriminately kills plants).
- Boiling water will kill the tops of plants; it tends not to kill the roots of perennials. They will grow back.
- Vinegar (CH₃COOH, acetic acid) is a mild acid and doesn't kill the roots. To kill plants, you need a minimum of 20% acetic acid. Most vinegars used in cooking run about 4 to 5% acetic acid. You need to find horticultural grade acetic acid.
- Vinegar-Table Salt-Dish Detergent is a popular recommendation. Again, the salt is the problem in that the sodium is not good for soil structure and is persistent in the soil itself.

Most professional horticulturists will not recommend



any of the above for effective weed control. While all natural, at the worse, they are harmful to the environment and at the least, they are minimally effective.

Better practices include

- Mulch of various types
- Flame weeders

(Continued on page 6)

- Corn gluten meal that has a component (chemical that has been shown to be toxic to plant species. It prevents plants from developing by inhibiting root development just as seeds are germinating. It is best if applied dry and early in the growing season.
- Use of 2, 4-D herbicides. There are several products on the market that contain 2, 4-D. This is a broadleaf herbicide in use since the 1940's. It is a synthetic auxin (a plant growth regulator naturally occurring in plants) demonstrated to have low toxicity to humans and most animals (there is some toxicity to fish, so care should be taken around water). Kills by causing the cells in the tissues that carry water and nutrients to divide and grow without stopping. (From <http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/24Dgen.html>; accessed Feb. 15, 2020)
- Manually weeding is still the safest way to remove undesired plants. Several tools make the job easier.



A weed is a plant growing where you don't want it!

Dandelion was introduced to the United States by colonists in the mid-1600's as a food and for medicinal purposes. It has since escaped and "naturalized" throughout the US. Depending upon your perspective it is a weed, a naturalized species, or native since the mid-1600's

(Image from <https://circulatingnow.nlm.nih.gov/2016/06/07/the-dandelion/>)



From Nancy Robinson, fungi and moss on dogwood.



From Nancy Robinson, double dogwood found at a plant sale in Oak Ridge. Neighbors don't know it's a dogwood!



From Deedee Blane, What's That from Brian White's Nursery