

IMPORTANT!

Handling & Planting Instructions



Please email us with your concerns

We are happy to help!

Thanks for your order! We carefully package your hostas to prevent damage, but occasionally the label will become separated from the hosta. If there is a gray-blue color on certain leaves it is foliar fertilizer and will wash off. Please note for a variety of reasons that we have no control over, (*how/where you plant, fertilize, water, spring freeze/thaw, etc.*), **we do not offer a guarantee longer than 7 days.** If you have concerns about the plants you have received, please email us immediately and take good care of the plants in case you decide to return them to us.

We can keep our prices lower through your word-of-mouth advertising. Thanks in advance for telling your family and friends. We do offer special programs for fundraisers, garden clubs, golf courses, and schools. Please email us to learn more.

Water your hosta(s) immediately upon receipt – even if you are not going to plant them right away.

Set the cell tray in a couple inches of water for 1 hour. Divisions need to be soaked in deeper water.

The Hostas You Received

Starter Hostas (TC) can remain in their cell pack for a long duration. When you're ready to plant, gently remove the hosta, shake in water to remove soil, and untangle the roots with your fingers to stretch them out. Also note that the divisions we sell will shrink some in size the second year as the plant adjusts to its new home.

Plant Maturity

As with most perennials, hostas become mature in their 3rd to 5th year. Here's a rule of thumb:

- The 1st year they sleep
- The 2nd year they creep
- The 3rd year they leap

Some varieties will get "bushier" faster than others. At maturity you will see their final colors, texture, form, and size.

Blue Hostas

Do not be concerned if you received a blue hosta that looks green. Blue hostas secrete an increasing amount of crystalline wax (*called a "glaucous bloom" in horticulture*) up until the 3rd to 5th year when the hosta is mature. Keep blue hostas out of direct afternoon sun as the wax can / will melt. Shiny hostas have a different type of wax. Deep shade works best with blue or green hostas.

White & Gold Hostas

All hostas need some light! White and gold centered hostas (*medio-variegated*) and yellow and gold need more light to bring out those colors and for photosynthesis. However, thin leaved whiter hostas may burn.

Fertilizer

Too much fertilizer can kill hostas! Err on the side of caution! Wait at least 7 to 10 days after planting and water your hostas before fertilizing. Do not apply fertilizer on the leaves when temperatures are over 85 degrees. Never use hot manure. Also, do not fertilize after July 30 as the hosta needs to shut down for the winter.

Foliar feeding:

(*fertilizer mixed with water, absorbed through the leaves and roots*)

- Use Peters 20-20-20 or Plantex 20-20-20 general purpose or micronutrient fertilizer
- Mix ½ of the recommended dosage (½ tbsp per gallon)
- Use 1 tablespoon per gallon after the hosta is mature
- Apply by using sprayers or cans

Balanced granular fertilizer:

- Use a 10-10-10 mix in early spring & mid May

Deer and Rabbits

Rabbits and deer love hostas, so take preventative measures immediately. See our website for information. Many customers have said www.WirelessDeerFence.com works very well for deer.

Digging the Hole & Preparing the Soil

Dig a deep, wide hole and loosen the surrounding soil. Be generous to allow for growing roots, which can get to be 12" deep and 24" wide. Hostas like well-drained, organic soil, so add organic matter if necessary. Holes dug in clay soil can create poor drainage which can lead to root rot and lack of space and nutrients for roots to grow. A slightly acidic soil is preferred, with a pH of 5.8 to 6.5. A high, "basic" pH of over 7.2 can change the leaf color.

Planting Your Hosta

Place the crown of the plant (*where the top of the roots stop*) in the hole so that it is level with the surrounding surface. Fill in the hole with soil, organic soil mix, or mixed in fertilizer (*do not add too much!*). If your soil needs drainage, use very coarse sand. Lift the plant up slightly, then lightly tamp the soil down about 2" deep to create a cup around the hosta for water to collect.

Over-Wintering (IMPORTANT!)

Cover your hostas, especially mini hostas, in the fall of the first year with straw or leaves (secured so they don't blow away). This protects your plants from being dried out in the wind as well as from freezing and thawing (heaving) in the spring. Almost any plant can be killed from starting to grow and stopping (freezing) repeatedly.

Direct Sun and Wind

Keep hostas out of direct sunlight (especially while still in the black cell tray) and windy areas as they can heat up and dry out quickly. If you are going to plant the hostas in direct sun, gradually give them an hour more of sun each day (called hardening off) before planting. Like human skin, hostas need to acclimate or they can get sunburned. Some varieties are more sun-resistant than others, as noted on our website.

Lighting Conditions

Hostas do best when they are kept out of the direct sun from around noon to 4pm. If you decide to plant them in a sunny location, they will need extra water. Also, the leaves may elongate and become more bleached in color.

Planting Near Trees

Tree roots will compete with the surrounding plants for water and nutrients. Lighting conditions may also be poorer under trees. Consider planting in buried pots if around tree roots.

Garden Markers for Plant Identification

One of the biggest regrets gardeners have is they forget to label their plants with permanent markers. Check out our sister company at www.IDealGardenMarkers.com for weather & sun-resistant labels and plant stakes.

