



Hosta Care

Hosta are very versatile plants, hardy to USDA Zone 2. Because of the wide variety of sizes, shapes, and color of foliage, they provide bold contrast in the garden and are wonderful companion plants.

Culture

Hostas prefer moist soil and indirect, dappled sun or shade. In Colorado, it is best to keep them out of the direct sun. Shaded areas are best, however Hostas will also grow well in areas with filtered light or in areas with morning/late afternoon sun.

Planting

Check the label of the plant to determine the height and spacing so that the plants can be placed appropriately. Hostas perform best in deeply dug soil (14"-18") that is amended with peat moss and compost. After planting, side dress the plants with mulch in order to keep the soil evenly moist.

Dividing

Clumps may be divided in the spring, however, they have no need for regular division. Clumps may remain in place for many years, growing larger and more impressive each year. Initial planning and spacing will provide Hostas the space to grow big and beautiful.

Insects & Diseases

Hostas are hearty but not free of pest issues. Slugs are the primary culprits for damage; slug bait or slug killers may be used for control. Diatomaceous earth, a talc-like powder may be used around the plant as well. Remember that although mulching is useful for moisture retention, it can contribute to the creation of a slug habitat. Closely monitor the area on a regular basis.

Although not a disease or insect, hail can also be very detrimental to the appearance of Hostas. Their large, tender leaves are very vulnerable to the shredding of hail. After hail damage, remove torn foliage and wait for new growth to appear.