

APRIL 2023

SUM AND SUBSTANCE

Written by:

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IN THIS ISSUE

Dividing Hostas

Next Event

HOW TO DIVIDE YOUR HOSTAS

(Now is the perfect time.)

1. **Dig the hole where you want to plant the new hosta.** Otherwise, the hosta piece will lay on the ground drying out while you are trying to figure out where to put it!
2. **Choose the hosta to divide.** Good candidates are hostas growing in a circle or crescent pattern. That indicates the center has died out.
3. **Sharpen your shovel.** You won't do this, but you will wish you did.
4. **Dig around the hosta chunk.** Go deep to get more roots.
5. **Lift the hosta chunk out.** Aren't you glad you dug the new hole first? Oh, you didn't? Silly you for not following directions.
6. **Put some Osmocote in the hole.** Plant your hosta. Water it really well for a couple of weeks.
7. **Fill the hole where you dug out the hosta chunk.** Use dirt and compost in a 50/50 mix. Mound it up a little. It will settle.
8. **Take the easy route.** Buy a new hosta for \$10 at Lowe's.

OR...

If you want some hostas in containers on your deck or to gift to me, do this...

1. **Make your potting mix first.** Mix finely ground pine bark mulch 50/50 with Miracle Gro potting mix. Get pots.
2. **Dig out your chunk and wash off the dirt.** That's right; use your hose and wash off all the dirt to expose the roots. You won't hurt it.
3. **Cut the chunk into pieces.** Use a sharp knife. Just cut through the crown, NOT the roots.
4. **Pull the piece apart.** Wiggle, pull, wiggle, pull. And, presto, you have 2 pieces!
5. **Plant in your pre-made mix.** See #1. You did make your mix first, right?
6. **Water well.** Keep containers in the shade for the summer.



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OUR NEXT EVENT IS THIS COMING SUNDAY, APRIL 23 FROM 1:00 TO 4:00

The peony and conifer garden tour at Ray Woody's place. He has the largest selection of peonies in the area, and one of the largest collections of conifers, as well. You don't want to miss it!



TOM'S MYSTERY PLANT

One of my favorites. Blooming now.

Email me at tomcathy@att.net with your answer.

Be sure to put PLANT in the subject line. Thanks.



PLANT THEM IN THE SPRING



BY SUMMER THEY'RE IN FULL BLOOM!