

✿ Regularly clean up old leaves and decaying matter from your hosta garden.

✿ Keep shrubs pruned up and branches from resting on the soil surface. This reduces slug habitat.

✿ Handpicking slugs and snails can be effective if done on a regular basis. Use gloves to avoid contact with the slugs. Place them in a bucket of heavily salted water and toss them on your compost pile. Avoid dumping the salt water on your compost.

✿ If you get slime on your hands or anything else you can get it off with white vinegar followed by a washing with warm water.

Some varieties and species of hostas are more slug resistant than others. The following list is a sampling of the best slug resistant hostas.

Slug Resistant Hostas:

Abiqua Drinking Gourd'

'Alex Summers'

'Ann Kulpa'

'Atlantis'

'Autumn Frost'

'Big Daddy'

'Blue Angel'

'Blue Hawaii'

'Blue Ivory'

'Blue Mammoth'

'Blue Mouse Ears'

'Blue Umbrellas'

Bressingham Blue'

'Bright Lights'

'Captain Kirk'

'Carnival'

Dawn's Early Light'

'Dick Ward'

'Dream Queen'

'Dream Weaver'

'Earth Angel'

'Empress Wu'

'Fire and Ice'

'First Frost'

'First Mate'

'Flemish Sky'

fluctuans 'Sagae'

fortunei 'Patriot'

'Fragrant Bouquet'

'George Smith'

'Grand Prize'

'Guardian Angel'

'Heatwave'

'His Honor'

'Independence'

'June's Fever'

'Kiwi Full Monty'

'Komodo Dragon'

'Krossa Regal'

'Last Dance'

'Liberty'

'Little Treasure'

'Loyalist'

'Maui Buttercups'

'Mighty Mouse'

'Minuteman'

'Olive Bailey Langdon'

'Pizzazz'

'Popcorn'

'Praying Hands'

'Queen of The Seas'

'Rainbows End'

'Rainforest Sunrise'

'Regal Splendor'

'Regal Supreme'

'Robert Frost'

'Rootin Tootin'

'Samual Blue'

sieboldiana 'Elegans'

sieboldiana 'Frances Williams'

sieboldiana 'Gray Cole'

sieboldiana 'Great Expectations'

'Sleeping Beauty'

'Snow Cap'

'Sum & Substance'

tardiana 'Halcyon'

tardiana 'June'

'T Rex'

'Touch of Class'

'Twilight'

'Victory'

'Whirlwind'



Sun Tolerant & Slug Resistant Hostas



Hosta 'Dawn's Early Light'

Sun Tolerant & Slug Resistant Hostas

Hostas are popular easy to grow herbaceous perennials. They are grown mainly for their beautiful foliage which comes in a wide range of shapes, colour patterns, textures and sizes. Originally native to Asia, today there are hundreds of species and thousands of cultivars available to the home gardener.

Hostas add interest and complement other plants in mixed borders, and make excellent container specimens.

Light Conditions for Hostas

Light levels for plants are determined by the number of hours of direct sunlight received per day.

Deep Shade: No direct sun. Only filtered light.

Full Shade: Less than 3 hrs. of direct, but less intense morning sunlight or filtered sunlight.

Part Shade: 3-5 hrs. of direct, but less intense morning sunlight.

Part Sun: 4-6 hrs. of direct sunlight.

Full sun: 6 hrs. or more of direct sunlight.

There is no such thing as a truly sun-tolerant hosta. Hostas prefer a part to full shade location, though the amount of light hostas should receive is dependant upon climate. In northern cooler regions, hostas will tolerate more direct sunlight than those grown in southern regions. When growing hostas, be aware that the summer the sun is most intense from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is when hostas can lose a lot of their moisture content from the sun and wind. Thick leaved and fragrant hosta varieties with plenty of water and moist soil conditions will tolerate the sun better than other hostas.

Here is a listing of hostas that are known to withstand 4 hrs or more of sunny conditions without excessive care in Zone 6 and further north. Consider this list as a helpful guide because hostas do prefer to have some shade in their environment. Water hosts profusely and keep them heavily mulched.

Hostas with Sun Tolerance Potential:

'Alex Summers'
'Atlantis'
'August Moon'
'Avocado'
'Blue Angel'
'Blue Mammoth'
'Blue Umbrellas'
'Bright Lights'
'Captain Kirk'
'Carnival'
'Color Glory'
'Dawn's Early Light'
'Fire and Ice'
'First Mate'
fluctuans 'Sagae'
fortunei 'Albopicta'
fortunei 'Aureomarginata'
fortunei 'Francee'
fortunei 'Gold Standard'
'Fragrant Blue'
'Fragrant Bouquet'
'Fragrant Dream'
'Ginko Craig'
'Golden Waffles'
'Grand Prize'
'Guacamole'
'Heatwave'
'Honeybells'
'Inniswood'
'June's Fever'
'Justine'
'Krossa Regal'
'Last Dance'
'Liberty'
'Maui Buttercups'
'Minuteman'
'Orange Marmalade'
'Paradigm'
'Paul's Glory'
'Popcorn'
'Queen of The Seas'
'Rainforest Sunrise'
'Regal Splendour'
'Royal Standard'
sieboldiana 'Elegans'
sieboldiana 'Gray Cole'
'Satisfaction'
'Spartacus'
'Stained Glass'
'Stripease'

'Sugar and Spice'
'Sum and Substance'
'Sun Power'
tardiana 'Halcyon'
'Touch of Class'
undulata 'Albomarginata'
'Whirlwind'

Slugs and Hostas

Slugs can do a lot of damage in the hosta garden. They feed beginning at dusk and continue through the night chewing holes in the foliage, preferring young plants and tender new growth. They can follow the slime trails from the night before, and other slugs can also pick up on these trails, creating a slug network to the plants they're feeding on.

Slug eggs are just about everywhere in garden soil. They can remain there for years and hatch when conditions are just right. White oval-shaped eggs can be found under rocks and boards and other damp places with cool moist soil. Adult slugs live for many years and hibernate in your garden over winter.

Walking through the garden and finding hostas damaged by slugs can be discouraging, since the damage is not evident until it is done. So here are some tips that can help you keep the slugs at bay and your garden looking great:

☘ Spring cultivation of the soil can help kill hibernating slugs and slug eggs.

☘ Apply barriers and traps just as hostas begin to emerge in spring. Some effective barriers include horseradish roots, geranium leaves, wood ashes, coffee grounds, crushed eggshells, sharp shells from nuts, and copper mesh or strapping.

☘ Apply mulch after soil temperatures have warmed above 24°C (75°F). Pine needle mulch often works well around hostas. Keep mulches pulled back from the bases of the plants. Once hostas have become established, mulches can be eliminated altogether to reduce the slug problem.

☘ Keep your compost area as far away as possible from your garden.