

October 2025



2025 season review

Wow, this season flew by and now it is time to reflect on what was a mixed year, but over all a good one. Usually I spend some time going through photographs taken during the season to remind myself of what we have been doing and where. This year I have taken very few at the nursery, but several on visits, such as this beautiful [*H. 'Earth Angel'*](#) in the border at Somerleyton Hall:



Busy, busy, busy...

Roy and I spent most of our time propagating and watering this year as the hostas emerged early in beautiful spring weather. However, it has been a tough year weather wise as the usual spring rain deserted us and we entered the longest period of hot, dry, settled weather I can recall. We managed to keep up with the task of watering but it was severely exacerbated by persistent drying winds.

These winds, and adverse weather forecasts, seemed to be a feature of several of the plant fairs we attended this season. We kicked off at a new event at the **Redgrave Little Ouse Headwaters Project** in cold windy conditions. The day was well attended though and was very promising for a first event. Thankfully our trip to **Wyken Vineyards** for their spring Plant Fair two weeks later was lovely after we had the most appalling weather the year before. This is a beautiful spot to have a plant fair and we had a great day.

We usually suffer from windy conditions at the **Norfolk Plant Heritage Spring Plant Fair at Hethersett** but this year it was good weather and I recall it was very warm that day, which bought out the visitors.

Autumnal colour

Here is a selection of images

I took last week in the collection, capturing the autumn colour changes, which can be quite dramatic:



Our next trip was to the **Bungay Garden Market**, another beautiful day and terrific event. We trekked up to Creake Abbey the following week for the **Plant Lovers' Day** but for some reason the visitor numbers were down quite significantly, so it wasn't as good a day as usual. It wasn't very warm so perhaps the weather had put people off there too?

The two day **Helmingham Spring Plant Fair** was very windy, and chilly as a result. I spent most of the weekend trying to prevent plants from flying off the tables. Overnight the wind managed to pick up two of our tables and dump themselves on top of my plants – not a great sight to greet us in the morning but the weather certainly didn't put off visitors and it was a cracking event over both days.

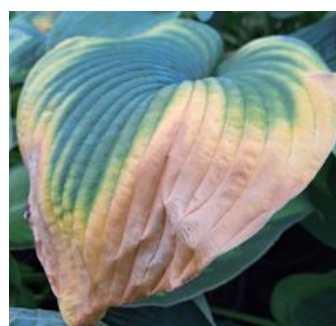
Conversely, the **East Ruston Plant Fair** the following weekend was really poorly attended. With a stormy day forecast we suspect visitors just didn't want to turn out. It didn't end up being stormy so it was really quite disappointing for all involved. The following day we were at Lavenham for their annual **Hidden Gardens** event and the weather was much brighter but the wind was a huge trial. I almost gave up trying to get set up as the wind kept blowing my plants over. It was a good job I staked the tall ones to prevent damage. I'm so pleased we stayed and battled it out as things improved into the afternoon and I was able to escape the stall to visit Clive and Susie's delightful courtyard garden, which I featured in the [July newsletter](#), and here is another lovely photo of *H. 'Liberty'* (background) and *H. 'Paul's Glory'* (foreground) from their garden:



The event was well attended and a great time seemed to be had by all – this really is a winning formula and I hope it continues to attract lots of visitors.

In mid-June we attended **Holkham Hall Summer Plant Fair** with a bit of an iffy forecast. Fortunately, this event is held in the walled garden, which provides plenty of shelter and the day proved to be lovely.

I covered our visit to **Somerleyton Plant Fair** in the [July newsletter](#) and was greeted by the best display of hostas I have seen in a long time. The day was blisteringly hot but there was a gentle breeze wafting through the event, which helped keep things manageable. The hostas were doing really well despite the heat and full sun conditions that many were growing in. Here is *H. 'Empress Wu'* in flower:





Unfortunately this prolonged exposure did mean they were looking very exhausted come the September Plant Fair and I don't think it helped my sales much. It was a disappointing day despite good visitor numbers.

The **Autumn Plant Fair at Hethersett** was good, and the **Helmingham Autumn Plant Fair** was well attended too, and visitors seemed to appreciate the array of specialists growers assembled on what was the 25th Anniversary of the event. In celebration the talks tent featured National Collections from the Suffolk Group of Plant Heritage. I put up a poster display as I was already outside in my usual spot selling plants. It was rather odd putting up a display after a few years of not having staged anything but I was amazed how well the materials looked after being in storage for a while.

Once again I had a number of talks across the season, which were really well received and helps keep our name out there in the absence of the flower shows we used to attend.

Overall it was another busy season but I finally managed to find time to put a bench in my garden from which I plan to spend some down time just enjoying the peace and quiet of our little slice of the world:



... surrounded by hostas of course!

Speak soon

Team Mickfield Hostas

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