

How to revive patchy, sunburned hostas



Gardening
Carol Savonen
Guest columnist

Question: I planted some hostas earlier this past spring in my front entry-way garden. They haven't been doing well and have turned yellow and brown in patches. What is wrong with them?

Answer: Without knowing exactly where and in what conditions you've planted them, I'd have to guess you put your hostas in a spot with too much sun and heat. Hostas like part sun and part shade, or filtered sun. Your plants might be suffering from sunburn.

The long sunny days and hot summer temperatures may have been too much for your newly planted hostas. Newly planted perennials of any type or young plants with underdeveloped root systems are particularly susceptible to sunburn. Young plants are growing fast. Their water requirements are at a maximum while their root systems are still developing. With sunlight for 12 to 14 hours on top of temperatures in the 90s, is a real stress to newer plants.

If the problem with your hostas is sunburn damage, the yellowing or browning pattern will be more apparent on the south side of the plant. Small sunburned plants may be yellow all over. The yellowing may have some brown (dead) patches, especially if the plant was planted in an unsuitable



The Shade Garden at Marion County Master Gardeners demo gardens features plants that thrive in the shade, including hostas. FILE PHOTO

place.

Hostas and rhododendrons are commonly chronically sunburned because they are mistakenly sited and planted on cloudy spring days. Then, summer comes, the clouds disappear and the plants get sunburned. Some varieties of hosta are better adapted to sun than others. Check at the time of purchase for sun tolerance. Others prefer a more shade.

The best way to prevent sunburn on any type of plant is to know your plants'

requirements for sun or shade before you plant them. Read the tag. Research catalogs for varieties appropriate to your growing conditions. Then plant them in the right place.

If they are already in the ground and are getting sunburned, either transplant them to a better site or amend heavy soils with compost so the plant can develop better roots. Make sure your plants are getting enough water and fertilizer for optimal health and minimal stress. A short-term solution for sun-

burn might be to protect them with shade cloth.

Question: I would love to plant some roses in my yard this late summer, but it is quite shady in most places. I have dappled sunlight in one section of my property. Are there any roses that are shade tolerant?

Answer: No type of rose is completely shade tolerant, but there are some that will tolerate more shade than most. Normally, most roses require a minimum of 6 hours of sunlight per day.

According to Heirloom Garden Roses (<https://www.heirloomroses.com/info/care/roses/shade-tolerant-roses/>) in St. Paul, Oregon, some types of roses tend to be more shade tolerant. Old fashioned roses that are closely related to species roses such as Rosa rugosa, native to forest or thicket habitats are more likely to do well in less light. Once-blooming varieties require less light as well.

Roses grown in about 4 hours of sun per day will keep their color, scent and bloom for a longer time than roses growing in sunnier areas. Pale or pastel blooms work well in shadier areas, as they show up well. Dappled light is good.

Question: Should I fertilize my roses to keep them blooming through August?

Answer: Go easy on the nitrogen, as it will stimulate the plant to grow a lot of foliage and it won't be as cold hardy. Use a bloom-enhancing, low nitrogen, high phosphorus fertilizer this late in the summer.

Berry

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right now is prime time.

As evidenced by all of the walkers pausing to browse and fill containers along the trails at Minto Brown Island Park and other sites where the thorny weeds proliferate.

And based on recent taste tests in the field, this year is fabulous for wild blackberries, one of the best in recent memory.

Along with Minto Brown, one of my all-time faves is the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area just north of Corvallis on the east side of Highway 99W.

Wilson is loaded with blackberry vines and an abundance of access thanks to the walk-in and bike-in grid of access roads left over from its former life as a military base.

The downside is that a wildlife area parking permit is required (\$10 daily or \$30 for a calendar-year pass). The annual permit is included in the cost of an annual hunting license.

Given the quality of this year's crop, most of the low-hanging fruit has been gathered, so to speak.



Bushes full of deliciousness await for those stalking the wild blackberry.

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But with the help of the right implement, it's the berries, as the old song goes.

I used to carry a golf club, a 9-iron as I recall, for snagging and pulling vines into picking distance. It gave a whole new meaning to the phrase "hooked it in the rough with my 9-iron."

But given the current trepidation about seeing strangers in public spaces wielding incongruous implements of potential carnage, I think that I might opt instead for a cane purchased from a

thrift store as a less-intimidating alternative.

One last note: Being street fare, the berries in that pie that Meghan and I made potentially could have been sprayed with herbicides.

Officials with both the City of Salem (Minto Brown, etc.) and Oregon Fish and Wildlife (E.E. Wilson, etc.) said spraying is used in some areas, but usually in the fall and early spring, not around the times that berries ripen.

You're on your own for the pie crust,

though. Hmmmm, maybe a cobbler.

Item 2: Speaking about hunter-gatherer, Salem's Four Corners Rod & Gun Club will be holding its annual Sight-in Service during weekends in September prior to the rifle deer season opener.

The cost is \$6 a rifle, and ear and eye protection are available for a nominal fee at the check-in station.

Rules are rifles out of cases with the actions open when walking to the benches.

The fee includes a safety check, bench rest and spotting and assistance in adjusting the scope or sights.

Black-powder rifles, hunting handguns and .17- and .22-caliber rimfire rifles are allowed the first two weekends, Sept. 1, 2, 8 and 9.

The club is at 7695 Babcock St. SE. From Salem, take State Street east about 4 miles and watch for the gun club turn on the right at 74th, then left on Babcock at the T intersection. Babcock ends at the lower parking lot at the main range.

For more information go to the club website at www.fourcornersgunclub.com

Henry Miller is a retired Statesman Journal outdoor columnist and outdoor writer. He can be reached via email at HenryMillerSJ@gmail.com

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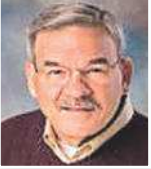
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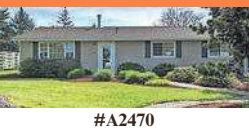
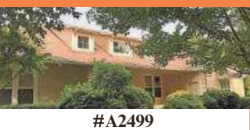
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