

SNAILS AND SLUG DETERRANTS as suggested By John Baker & June Colley of the Hanging Hosta Gardens – May 2019



Ammonia should be used diluted at a rate of 10%. Use 9 parts of water and one part of household ammonia. Use as a spray to kill slugs and snails. But don't use for young seedlings. Spray when hostas have emerged already. However, ammonia may discourage flowering due to its nitrogen contents. If you want hostas to flower, stop the ammonia by the beginning of May.

Garlic Spray to deter slugs and snails: Crush two bulbs of garlic and boil in one litre of water for five minutes. Sieve the juice concentrate and store in an air-tight container in the fridge. This can last up to three weeks. Use two tablespoon of juice per litre of water. In a watering can, you need around ten tablespoons of the juice. Spray or water your plant with the solution. You need to reapply after heavy rain. The spray should be effective for up to two weeks in dry weather. Spray the stalks and under the leaves for best results because when you water with a hosepipe, it can wash off the garlic coating.

Feeding of Hostas: we use slow-release fertilisers which can last six months. However, you need to supplement this with liquid feed maybe every two weeks if the hostas are in pots. Frequent watering can exhaust the feed quickly. For hostas that are growing in the ground, you don't need so much feed if the soil is rich loam or clay. You need to loosen clay with grit or old bark. Clay can become compacted in dry weather. In very loose soil, you should add some compost and feed. Hostas like plenty of water. When the edges of the leaves go brown, it can only mean that they require more water especially in prolonged periods of dry weather.