



An unique new mini-hosta was registered fall - 2006 with AHS by ROHS member, Trudy Van Wyk. Hosta 'Little Maddie' won second place at the Midwest Regional Hosta Convention 2006 Seedling - Sport division.

Named for Bruce & Trudy's grand daughter Madison, this OP (open pollinated) seedling of hosta 'Little Wonder Streaked' was sown in the house - December 2002. It was "different appearing" & misted. A hosta seed sower's dream is always, something different / unique. The parent plant was growing near hosta 'Korean Snow' & exhibits that type of misting. The misting fades during hot weather but doesn't disappear.

Trudy said at first, 'Little Maddie' didn't grow. It just stayed small but did get wider. Soon she realized it's a miniature hosta. The plant now grows in a few hosta gardens of Trudy's friends. Included is famous hosta hybridizer, Greg Johnson as the little lady blooms fully and is fertile. The boyz from 'Naylor Creek' have all ready asked about trying 'Little Maddie' in tissue culture.

In the wings awaits, another little hosta 'Margaret May'. Named for Bruce & Trudy's daughter-in-law, deceased 2003, the plant is similar to 'Little Maddie' but a lighter green color that gets a darker green as the season progresses. This plant also exhibit's the misting of hosta 'Korean Snow' & is also an OP seedling of 'Little Wonder Streaked'. The favorite parent plant came from 'Stark Gardens'. Gunther dug it himself for Trudy a few years ago.

Trudy would like to learn controlled hybridizing techniques then try some purposeful crosses but says really "the bees do it better". Fall 2001 was the first year Trudy experimented with hosta seeds.

Trudy's first hosta, 9 years ago was the "green & white one". Then she & Bruce visited Soward's Gardens. They had about 50 hostas. Van Wyks had never seen so many hostas before. They bought the classic plants - 'Halcyon' & 'Northern Exposure'. Both remain favorites in their gardens. Both say it's hard to beat the oldie but goodies.

'Holland Drive Gardens' came to be, realizing Trudy's dream of her own little backyard plant nursery in May 2000. Bruce & Trudy say we want to "share our garden" more than sell plants. They want to help beginners learn about composting & growing plants so they have happy gardening experiences. We all know how disheartening it can be when plants die due to inexperience & lack of knowledge.

Daylilies & ornamental grasses are also of particular interest at Holland Drive Gardens. I live just across the street from Holland Drive Gardens & can attest to the beauty & serenity that prevails. Robust clematis climb high, roses perfume the air, cannas shade other plants, sedums peek out here & there, water plants sun bathe happily amid little water features, frogs hop, toads hide, & self-seeding annuals show off at every opportunity. And there's always something to nibble on from the veggie garden.

Trudy says the best thing about gardening is the joy of nature & the peace in the garden. I believe we all hope for peace in the world. The peace in our very own garden soothes our souls, refreshes our spirits, & gives us strength. Life began in a garden.

Visit Bruce & Trudy at "**Holland Drive Gardens**". Call for an **appointment: 641-627-5031**. They are located near **Pella, IA 50219 @ 104 Bluegill Ct**. For further information concerning "Holland Drive Gardens" check out the "**Plant Places**" entry on the **internet - <http://www.marlysgardens.com>**