

ing to Laura G. Jull, Dept. of Horticulture University of Wisconsin-Madison.

She says, "Excess soil greater than three inches may impede oxygen transport from the atmosphere to tree and shrub roots, especially on smaller growing plants."

There is a positive in all this water weight discussion and that is that plants do indeed need water to thrive, and the rains of spring and early summer will get our gardens off to a good start. On one particularly soggy day I went out with the camera to see if I could find the weight of water in the garden.

My first stop was the droplets on hosta sieboldiana 'Elegans'.

This is one of my favourites in the big hosta group. The slugs tend to avoid munching on it and you can see that the leaves are strong enough to hold the weight of a lot of water. This one is in a location that receives less than two hours of direct sun each day and it is happy and healthy.

Just down from the hosta, in similar shade conditions, I spotted this fern unfolding in that classic 'fiddlehead' form. All of the ferns were excited about the rains. I find that although there are some that tolerate drier conditions, if they start the season with enough water, they will last right through the summer without browning on the edges.

The serviceberry and the daffodils were all bending down toward the ground with the weight of the raindrops. The light petals of the shrub just could not hold the heavy drops and we all know that the hollow stems of the daffodils are often too weak to hold up the blooms even with-



Serviceberry
(Amalanchier sp.)



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