

HOSTA

For a reliable, carefree perennial in a shady location, hostas can't be beat. There is a huge selection of these hardy beauties available, so it should not be hard to find one to suit your taste.

Requirements

Shady locations are really best for most hostas. Blue-leaved types especially suffer in the sun with pale or sunburned leaves as the result. Some varieties tolerate morning sun. The most sun tolerant hosta is 'Royal Standard', which can take up to 4-5 hours of direct sun. Other varieties which tolerate sun better than others are 'Sum and Substance', 'Gold Drop', 'Gold Edger', 'Birchwood Parky's Gold,' 'Invincible', 'Ellerbrook', and 'August Moon'

Soil rich in organic matter and cool, moist, well-drained conditions are best for hosta culture, but hostas can adapt to a variety of soil conditions.

Care and Maintenance

Plant with proper spacing between plants. Know the mature size of the variety you are planting. Young hostas can really fool you as to their mature habit and size.

Fertilize once a year with a slow release fertilizer, or twice a year with a general-purpose granular fertilizer such as Fertilome Flower Grower. Time the granular feedings for during the rapid spring growth, and again in the late fall.

Mulch with a 2 - 4" layer of shredded hardwood or cypress mulch. Check depth yearly and add additional mulch as needed.

Remove old foliage after the hard frosts of late fall.

Patience is required when planting a young transplant. Mature traits such as variegation, leaf shape or leaf texture may not appear until the plant becomes established, maybe two years down the road.

Pest control consists mainly of controlling the slugs, which eat huge holes in the hosta leaves. They will leave telltale silvery slime trails. An easy and effective way to control these slimy pests is to mix one can of beer with one-quarter cup of flour. Mix well and pour into low containers. The slugs will be attracted to the mixture and drown.

Diatomaceous earth or commercial slug bait such as *Fertilome Snail & Slug Pellets* can also be spread on the ground around the hostas to control slugs. Some varieties of hostas are naturally resistant to slugs. These include: 'Halycon', 'Krossa Regal', 'Invincible', 'Gold Edger, and 'Sum and Substance'.

Varieties

Blue Hostas

Hosta 'Abiqua Trumpet'-15-22', small spade-shaped blue-green leaves.

Hosta 'Blue Angel'-48", huge clump; heavily textured very large glaucous bluish leaves; long lasting clusters of lilac-white flowers in summer; tolerant of dry conditions once established.

Hosta 'Blue Cadet'-16", blue-green heart-shaped leaves forming dense mounds; dark lavender flowers in late summer; good edging plant.

Hosta 'Blue Umbrellas'-30", giant mound of very large foliage, bluish in spring turning to dark green in summer, near white flowers in late June.

Hosta 'Blue Wedgewood'-6-12"clumps, attractive blue foliage; pale lavender flowers in mid-summer; rapid grower.

Hosta 'Hadspen Blue'-8-12", powdery steel blue rounded leaves; light lavender flowers just above the foliage in July.

Hosta 'Halycon'-12-16", mounds of blue-green foliage; pale lavender flowers in August; good slug resistance.

Hosta 'Krossa Regal'-30', distinctive vase-shaped clumps of steel blue leaves; flower scapes of lavender flowers in late July and early August to 5'; slug resistant.

Hosta sieboldiana 'Elegans'-24", large, corrugated blue-green leaves; near white flowers in late June, reliable and outstanding.

Hosta tokudama 'True Blue'-30", large leathery blue leaves; white flower midseason.

Green Hostas

Hosta 'Birchwood Parky's Gold' – 13", fast growing, dense mound of light greenish foliage; mass of lavender flowers in early July; sun tolerant.

Hosta fortunei x 'Hyacintha' – 24", large grey-green leaves with a fine white line along the edge, glaucous-white underside; violet flowers in mid-summer, vigorous grower.

Hosta 'Green Fountain' – 36", long strap-like leaves with wavy edges, fountain-like habit at maturity; lavender flowers in June.

Hosta 'Honey Bells' – 12-18", yellow-green waxy leaves; sweetly scented pale lavender flowers in late August and September; grows quickly into full beautiful clumps.

Hosta 'Invincible' – 16", mound of very shiny green foliage; fragrant lavender flowers in August; sun tolerant and slug resistant.

Hosta lancifolia – 12-16", linear, glossy green leaves; lavender flowers in September; tolerates dry sunnier sites better than most hostas.

Hosta nigrescens 'Elatior' – 36", immense vase-shaped habit with shiny green foliage; near white flowers in late July to August.

Hosta 'Obscura' – 24", heavily ribbed dark green leaves.

Hosta 'Pearl Lake' – 14", dense vigorous mound of heart-shaped, gray-green leaves; Profuse lavender flowers in July.

Hosta 'Royal Standard' – 24", deep green leaves; large masses of very fragrant white flowers in from mid-August to September; the most sun tolerant hosta.

White Variegated Hostas

Hosta undulata 'Albomarginata' – 18-24", undulated heart-shaped green leaves with creamy white margin; lilac flowers in early summer; spreads rapidly.

Hosta undulata variegata – 14", wavy leaves with a wide white center and thin green borders; lavender flowers in early July.

Hosta 'Antioch' – 22"+, large green leaves mottled light green with wide edges of creamy-white; lavender flowers midsummer.

Hosta 'Allen P. McConnell' – 13", white rimmed foliage forming a compact, low mound; purple flowers in late July.

Hosta 'Christmas Tree' – 20", large, rounded leaves edged with white forming a dense mound, lavender flowers from late June into late July.

Hosta 'Crested Surf' – 10-15", medium green with a ruffled white margin.

Hosta 'Crowned Imperial' – 22"+, dark green leaves with a white margin; lavender flowers in midsummer.

Hosta 'Diamond Tiara' – 10-15", creamy-white margined form of "Golden Tiara"; deep purple flowers with white veining, flowers early to midsummer, occasionally reblooms.

Hosta 'Francee' – 18", attractive leaves with sharply contrasting white margins that hold well throughout the growing season; lavender flowers in July.

Hosta 'Ginko Craig' 10", small flat-topped mounds of narrow foliage with distinct white margins; purple flowers in late July; an outstanding edging plant.

Hosta 'Mildred Seaver' – 15-22", nice mound of leaves with a thick white margin and medium green centers.

Hosta 'Moonlight' – 15-22", goldish green leaves with a thin white edge.

Hosta 'Patriot' – 20", a sport of 'Francee' with wide, wavy, white margins and deep green centers; lavender flowers in late July.

Hosta 'Pizazz' - 22+, beautiful heart-shaped leaves with wavy cream-white margins on a frosted blue base; dense masses of white flowers in mid to late summer.

Hosta 'Platinum Tiara' - 10-15", golden heart-shaped leaves ribboned with a white border; dark lavender flowers streaked white midsummer.

Hosta 'Regal Splendor' - 22"+, a sport of 'Krossa Regal' with creamy-white leaf margins on frosty blue leaves, unique vase-shaped form; orchid flowers midsummer.

Hosta 'So Sweet' -20", fast growing white-margined foliage; sweet scented, large lavender flowers in August. Hosta 'Spinners'-22"+, wide white border on medium green leaves.

Hosta 'Summer Fragrance' – 25", rapid growing, white-margined foliage; 40" lavender fragrant flowers in early August to September.

Hosta venusta 'Variegated' –6", Dwarf mound of white centered foliage; purple flowers in early July; excellent specimen in a shaded rock garden.

Yellow Variegated Hostas

Hosta 'Bold Ribbons' - 10-15", wide creamy margins on long narrow leaves.

Hosta 'Brenda's Beauty' - 15-22", brilliantly colored cream center in spring, leaves have an interesting curled habit.

Hosta 'Chinese Sunrise'-10-15", form of *Hosta lancifolia* with glossy, narrow, lance-shaped chartreuse-gold leaves with a green margin, gold center fades to all green in the summer; lavender flowers late summer.

Hosta 'Elferbroek' - 15-22", bright gold edge on green leaves, holds up well in sun as well as shade; lavender flowers.

Hosta fluctuans variegated - 24", large mound of frosty green leaves with creamy yellow margins, heavy substance; pale lavender flowers midsummer.

Hosta helenoides 'Albo Picta' - 24", very narrow elongated bright green leaves with creamy margins; purple striped flowers in summer.

Hosta sieboldiana 'Francis Williams' - 25", large, attractive corrugated blue-green leaves with yellow margins; near white flowers in late June; can scorch with direct sun.

Hosta fortunei 'Gold Standard'-23", wide spreading mound of green foliage that turns to gold-centered leaves with thin green margins by July; lavender flowers in late July to early August.

Hosta 'Golden Tiara' - 14", compact mound of heart-shaped leaves with striking gold borders; masses of purple flowers in July.

Hosta 'Green Gold' - 15-22", dark green ovate leaves with creamy-yellow border; lavender flowers midsummer, shade to 3/4 sun.

Hostas 'Great Expectations' - 30-36", leaves are heavily corrugated with an extremely wide irregular green-blue margin with yellow-cream center; white flowers in June.

Hosta 'Lunar Eclipse' - 24", white leaf margin on yellow leaf; pale lavender flowers midsummer.

Hosta 'Marble Rim' - 10-15", narrow green leaves with variable cream edge.

Hosta montana 'Aurea Marginata' - 32-36", huge pointed glossy green leaves with wide irregular yellow margins; nearly white flowers on tall stems in July.

Hosta 'Shade Fanfare' – 18", vigorous growing mound of light green foliage with a creamy margin; lavender flowers in July.

Hosta 'September Sun' – 20", gold-centered, green margined foliage; near white flowers in July.

Hosta 'Spritzer' – 18", pointed leaves with rippling green margins and yellow to white centers; lavender flowers midseason; pest resistant and sun tolerant.

Hosta 'Wide Brim' – 18", rugose, heart-shaped, blue-green leaves with wide irregular margins of cream with tints of gold at maturity; lavender flowers in July.

Gold Hostas

Hosta 'August Moon' - 20-30", large oval soft green-yellow crinkled foliage turning golden at maturity; near white flowers in July; vigorous, fast growing and fairly sun tolerant.

Hosta 'Blonde Elf' - less than 10", excellent small gold hosta with wavy margins; lavender flowers midsummer.

Hosta 'Gold Drop' - less than 10", small gold heart-shaped leaves, excellent for edging; lavender flower midsummer; sun or shade.

Hosta 'Gold Regal' - 24", large, upright, gold to chartreuse leaves; lavender flowers in early June.

Hosta 'Gold Edger' - 8", small round golden leaves; masses of lavender flowers in June; sun tolerant and pest resistant.

Hosta 'Golden Scepter' - 14", brightest golden hosta in April and May, compact mound of small, heart-shaped leaves; masses of purple flowers in July.

Hosta 'Ground Sulphur' - 10-15", small chartreuse/gold curled leaves.

Hosta 'Lemon Lime' - 12", low mounds of yellow-green foliage; showy purple flowers in July; great groundcover.

Hosta 'Piedmont Gold' - 18", fast growing, outstanding golden-leaved hosta; holds color well in shade; near white flowers in July.

Hosta 'Sea Dream' - 18", bright gold foliage with creamy-white margins; lavender flowers in July.

Hosta 'Sea Yellow Sunrise' - 15-22", bright yellow hosta that holds its color, can take some sun.

Hosta 'Sum and Substance' - 36", very impressive, huge round glossy chartreuse gold leaves of thick substance; tall flower scapes with lavender flowers in July; slug resistant and fairly sun tolerant.