



J&L Garden Center

The All Season Gift
and Garden Center

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Hosta

www.JLGardenCenter.com

Hosta plants (plantain lily), native to Japan, are wonderful decorative plants that can be used as edgings, borders, or as a highlight in a perennial flower garden. Hostas are most noted for their leaves, although they do produce fragrant flowers during the summer. Hosta leaves vary in size, color, shape and texture. The leaves may be smooth, ribbed, waxy, long, narrow, short, fat, broad or paddle-shaped. Hosta leaves may be yellow, light-green, dark green, green with a white edge, green with a white center or many other variations. Hostas are truly interesting plants, perfect to add to any flower garden, sun or shade. Hostas grow best in cool shady areas. They are perfect companions for other shady perennials such as Bleeding Hearts, Columbine, Ferns and Astilbe. Hostas make an excellent groundcover in bulb gardens. Tulips and daffodils look spectacular when planted among hostas.

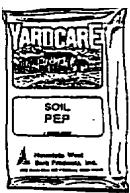


Planting

Hosta will grow almost anywhere, but they prefer cool, moist areas with light shade. Some varieties will tolerate full sun if they are kept moist. Other varieties will grow in full shade. The variegated varieties tend to burn in the extreme heat; so plant these varieties in the shade.



Hosta like light, loose, rich soil. They do not like to compete with roots from other plants or grow in boggy or wet areas. Prepare your soil before planting and your hostas will grow well. Spread one inch of either **Peat Moss** or **Soil Pep** over the entire garden. Apply one pound of **16-16-8 Multi-purpose Fertilizer** per one hundred square feet of garden. Rototill the soil as deep as possible. Do not plant hostas too deep, they have a shallow root system. Make sure the crown is only one or two inches below the soil line. Water immediately after planting and apply **Root Starter**. Give your plants **Root Starter** every two weeks for the first two months. Water regularly but do not keep them soggy wet.



Blooming

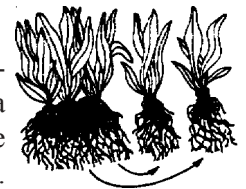
Hostas are noted mainly for their leaves but they also bloom during the summer. The flowers are usually fragrant and will vary in color from white, to lavender, to purple, depending upon the variety. Some varieties bloom in June while other varieties bloom later in July or August and the blossoms may last for several weeks. The flower spike grows taller than the leaves, some varieties can produce flower



stems up to five feet tall. Each flower spike has several trumpet-shaped flowers attached to it. Although these flowers are not extremely eye catching, they do add a little more interest to the already attractive hosta plant.

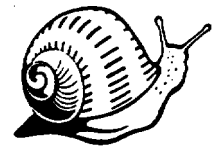
Dividing

Hosta plants will grow and multiply for years without any care. Hosta can grow for thirty years in the same area without needing to be divided. When the clumps start to over take the area, or when you want to spread them out into new areas, carefully dig the clumps and divide them. The best time to dig and divide hostas is early in the spring but you can also divide them early in the fall if you mulch them well the first winter. Older clumps can be very tough to divide and separate because they develop tough crowns: you may need a pick or an axe to divide the old clumps.



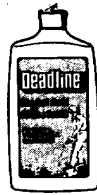
Pest Problems

The only major pests of hostas are **Slugs and Snails**. These pests love to eat the hosta leaves. They will not kill your hosta plants but they do make them look terrible. Since hostas are usually quite densely planted and are usually growing in the shade, snail control may be difficult. Applying baits around plants may be difficult. You must apply the bait where the snails will come in contact with it. In densely planted gardens an application of pellets, baits, or liquid bait on the soil around the plants may be very involved. Many snail baits only paralyze snails instead of completely killing them. Snails may recover from the paralysis if they are kept cool and moist. When you are trying to kill snails in shady areas be sure to follow up and remove all snails you see. Don't give up, treat for slugs

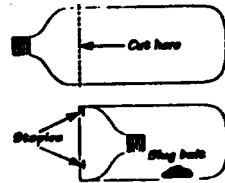


and snails every two or three weeks all summer.

Some good snail killers are **Diatomaceous Earth, Deadline, Lilly Miller Slug and Snail Pellets (or bait) and Corry's Snail Pellets (or bait).**



You can also build a snail trap with a pop bottle, milk jug, or large can. You can use beer, molasses, strawberries, snail bait, or any sweet smelling item to attract them. The object of the trap is for the snails to be attracted into the trap and then not be able to get out. Your trap may need to be emptied every week or two. Keep your trap free of dead snails in order to attract more snails. Either empty it regularly or throw it away and build a new one when it gets full.



Care

Hostas are relatively easy to grow and care for. Fertilize them well every spring with **16-16-8 Multi Purpose Fertilizer**, before they start to grow. Water them regularly but do not keep them soggy wet, or you will have a major snail problem. Hosta leaves die each fall and new leaves appear in the spring. Remove the dead leaves in the fall and plant a few pansies to keep your garden looking sharp all winter. Mulch your garden with **soil pep** rather than bark, to try to cut down on the snail population.



Hosta Varieties

'AUGUST MOON'- Large, rounded, puckered, golden leaves that stay attractive all summer long. White flowers with a touch of pale lavender. Blooms late July to mid-August. Grows 18" to 20" tall.

'CANDY HEARTS'- Thickly textured, green, heart-shaped leaves that form a compact mound. Leaves form a background for Lavender flowers. Grows 12" to 18" tall.

'EMERALD TIARA' - Green leaf margin with gold center. Dark purple flowers in late June may repeat later in summer. Grows 9" - 12" tall.

fortunei 'AUREO-MARGINATA'- Dark green leaves with a stunning golden-yellow border. Lilac flowers bloom from late July to August. Grows 18" -24" tall.

fortunei 'HYACINTHINA'- Large mounds of green, blue-gray leaves with a bluish-white underside and pale lavender flowers. Grows twenty-four to thirty inches tall. Will tolerate full sun if kept moist.

'FRANCEE'- Green heart-shaped leaves with narrow, clean white margins. Variegation holds up very well in full sun providing superb color contrast. Lavender flower bloom from late July till mid-August. Grows 24" tall.

'FRANCIS WILLIAMS' - Large blue-green leaves with narrow white margins. More upright in growth. Prefers morning sun to light shade.

'GINKO CRAIG' - Short lance-like green leaves with sharp white border. Dark purple flowers in August. Excellent for borders. Grows 12" - 15" tall.

'GOLD EDGER' - Neat, rounded golden leaves. Lavender flowers. Dwarf plant makes a great border or edge of a garden. Grows 9" to 12" tall.

'GOLD REGAL' - Gold/Lime thick spear shaped foliage. Upright in growth. Slow growing. Morning Sun.

'GOLD STANDARD'- Light golden-green leaves with dark green margins emerge in spring. The center of the leaves turn parchment-gold by summer. Morning sun is recommended to bring out the golden color. Lavender flowers bloom from late July till mid-August. Grows 30" tall.

'GOLDEN TIARA'- Heart-shaped, green leaves with a wide, golden margin. Compact grower showing good form, persistent color, and fast clumping habit. Deep lavender flowers bloom from July to August. Grows 18" tall.

'HALCYON' - Spear-shaped thick, heavily ribbed leaves. Violet flowers. Good hardy variety. Grows 24" tall.

'LANCIFOLIA' - Narrow, green, spear-shaped leaves overlap in a perfect mound. Lilac-blue flowers from August to September. Grows 18" to 24" tall.

'LOVE PAT' - Heavy blue, cupped leaves with a rough texture. Upright growth. Prefers filtered shade to full shade.

'MINUTEMAN' - Jagged green centers with irregular white margins. Mounding growth. Prefers morning sun to filtered shade.

'PATRIOT' - Wide white margins, leaves upright. Clean look. Prefers morning sun to filtered shade.

'ROYAL STANDARD'- Leaves are a rich green color. Fragrant white flowers grow on 28" stems beginning in August. Very hardy variety. Will withstand full sun, if kept moist. Grows 24" tall.

'SHARMAN' - Leaves creamy with dark green edge, turning mostly green by full summer. Prefers light filtered shade to shade.

Sieboldiana 'ELEGANS'- Heavily textured, large, blue-gray rounded leaves with white flowers. Leaves corrugated as they mature. Color shows best in shade to light sun. Grows 24" to 30" tall.

'TOKUDAMA' - The leaves are puckered, cup-shaped with a nice blue color. Near white flowers open just above the foliage. Very slow growing. Grows 18" tall.

'TOKUDAMA AUREO-NEBULOSA' - The cupped-shaped, puckered leaves have a blue-green margin handsomely flushed with yellow. Grows slow to 18" tall.

Undulata 'ALBO-MARGINATA'- Plant forms handsome clumps of large green leaves edged with broad bands of white. Lavender flowers bloom in July. Grows 18" to 24" tall. One of the most popular varieties. Sunburns in hot, dry areas.

Undulata 'VARIEGATED' - Waxy, dark green leaves with a white center. Lilac flowers bloom in July. Excellent to add color in the dark flower gardens. Grows 18" tall. Very popular and hardy variety.