

Hosta of the Year Collection

Sponsored by Illinois Central College
and
Central Illinois Hosta Society



Established 2000
Updated 2014



The Hosta of the Year (HOTY) Collection

With the large number of hosta cultivars being introduced each year it is increasingly difficult for nursery owners and gardeners to choose just the right hostas for their sales areas and gardens. To this end the American Hosta Growers Association established the AHGA Hosta of the Year in 1996. It is selected by a vote of AHGA members. Award winners are hostas that are good garden plants in all regions of the country, are widely available and in sufficient supply and retail for about \$15.00 in the year of selection.

- 1996 - 'So Sweet'**
- 1997 - 'Patriot'**
- 1998 - 'Fragrant Bouquet'**
- 1999 - 'Paul's Glory'**
- 2000 - 'Sagae'**
- 2001 - 'June'**
- 2002 - 'Guacamole'**
- 2003 - 'Regal Splendor'**
- 2004 - 'Sum and Substance'**
- 2005 - 'Striptease'**
- 2006 - 'Stained Glass'**
- 2007 - 'Paradigm'**
- 2009 - 'Earth Angel'**
- 2010 - 'First Frost'**
- 2011 - 'Praying Hands'**
- 2012 - 'Liberty'**
- 2013 - 'Rainforest Sunrise'**
- 2014 - 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'**
- 2015 - 'Victory'**
- 2016 - 'Curly Fries'**
- 2017 - 'Brother Stefan'**
- 2018 - 'World Cup'**
- 2019 - 'Lakeside Paisley Print'**

- 2020 - _____**
- 2021 - _____**
- 2022 - _____**
- 2023 - _____**

HOTY Selection Cultivar Descriptions

2019 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of Barry Ankney

'Lakeside Paisley Print'

(M. Chastain, 2006)

Color – medio-variegated

Size – Small (10”ht x 30”w)

Habit – Mounding

Bloom – Pale Lavender with darker striping

Parent – seedling x seedling

Highly ruffled broadly ovate leaves of medium green have creamy white centers that radiate out from the petioles. Vigorous grower. The scape is a creamy color, topped with pale lavender flowers in early to mid-summer.

2018 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of Gerry Meyers

'World Cup'

(Beilsten/Zilis 2006)

Color - Gold

Size - Large (23”ht x 43”w)

Habit - Upright

Bloom - Purple

Parent - 'Komodo Dragon' x 'Superbowl'

Forms an upright clump of deeply cupped, moderately wavy, deeply corrugated, bright gold foliage. Pale purple flowers in late June to early July. Quickly becoming a very Hot Hosta

2017 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of Olga Petryszyn

'Brother Stefan'

(Petryszyn, 1998)

Color – Medio-variegated

Size – Medium (22”ht x 36”w)

Habit – Mounding

Bloom – White

Parent – 'King Tut' x 'Mildred Seaver' seedling

Thick heavily corrugated golden centers, surrounded by a wide blue-green margin. Great substance on an eye-catching plant with moderate growth rate.

2016 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA member Made in the Shade Gardens

'Curly Fries'

(Solberg, 2008)

Color – Gold

Size – Small (11”ht x 20”w)

Habit – Mounding

Bloom - Lavender

Parent – ‘Pineapple Upsidedown Cake’ x unknown

Highly ruffled narrow leaves emerge yellow and then fade to near white if given sun. Vigorous grower. The scape is deep purple, topped with lavender flowers in mid to late summer.

2015 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA member Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Victory'

(Zilis, Solberg, 2003)

Color – Variegated

Size – Giant (30”ht x 70”w)

Habit – Upright

Bloom – White

Parent – sport of *nigrescens* ‘Elatior’

Shiny green center with a margin that changes from greenish yellow to creamy white by early summer. Smooth texture with thick substance. Near white flowers on tall scapes in mid-summer. An outstanding specimen. Vigorous growth rate.

2014 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA member Made in the Shade Gardens

'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'

(Walden West 1989)

Color - Blue

Size - Medium (22”ht x 46”w)

Habit - Mounding

Bloom - White

Parent - ‘Tokudama’ x *sieboldiana*

Dark blue-green seer suckered leaves with heavy substance. Probably the most deeply cupped foliage of any hosta cultivar makes for a distinct and unique specimen. Near white flowers in mid-summer.

2013 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA member Made in the Shade Gardens

'Rainforest Sunrise'

(Winterberry Farms/Anderson 2003)

Color - Medio-variegated

Size - Small (10"ht x 25"w)

Habit - Mounding

Bloom - Lavender

Parent - sport of 'Maui Buttercups'

Gold leaves are margined with a nice dark green margin. Nicely corrugated even at a young age, the glossy cupped leaves also have thick substance. Pale lavender flowers in early summer.

2012 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA member Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Liberty'

(Machen 2000)

Color - Variegated

Size - Large (26"ht x 63"w)

Habit - Upright

Bloom - Lavender

Parent - sport of 'Sagae'

The sensation of the 2000 American Hosta Society convention. This sport of the popular 'Sagae' features a wider more dramatic margin. Like 'Sagae' the margin changes from yellow to creamy-white by mid-season. Lavender flowers in mid-summer. PP#12,531

2011 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA member Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Praying Hands'

(Williams 1996)

Color - Variegated

Size - Medium (16"ht x 30"w)

Habit - Upright

Bloom - Lavender

Parent - unknown

One of the most unique hostas of all time. Upright narrow green leaves have a thin creamy white margin. Each leaf is rolled and folded into a tube shape displaying its prominent veins on the backside of the leaf.

2010 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA member Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'First Frost'

(Scolnik/Solberg 2002)

Color - Variegated

Size - Medium (15"ht x 36"w)

Habit - Mounding

Bloom - Lavender

Parent - TC sport of 'Halcyon'

Blue center in spring, gradually turning dark green with a 1/4" to 1/2" wide margin creamy yellow in spring, turning creamy white by midsummer. Good substance. Very pale lavender flowers from late July into mid-August.

2009 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA member Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Earth Angel'

(Hansen/Shady Oaks Nursery 2002)

Color - Variegated

Size - Giant (30"ht x 40"w)

Habit - Mounding

Bloom - Lavender

Parent - sport of 'Blue Angel'

A wonderfully variegated form of the beloved classic 'Blue Angel'. Large heart-shaped blue-green leaves have a wide creamy-white border. Pale lavender flowers top the clump in early summer.

2008 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA member Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Blue Mouse Ears'

(Deckert 2000)

Color - Blue

Size - Mini (8"ht x 19"w)

Habit - Mounding

Bloom - Lavender

Parent - sport of 'Blue Cadet'

Small round gray-green leaves with incredible substance. Lavender flowers in mid-summer are on short scapes that are in perfect proportion to the clump size. A must have for the rock garden.

2007 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA member Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Paradigm'

(Purtyman/Walden West 1999)

Color - Medio-variegated
Size - Medium (22"ht x 45"w)
Habit - Mounding
Bloom - White
Parent - sport of 'Abiqua Recluse'

Beautiful gold leaves edged with a dark blue-green margin. The variegation pattern intensifies later in the spring. Moderate corrugation and good substance. Near white flowers in summer. Very impressive.

2006 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA member Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Stained Glass'

(Hansen/Shady Oaks Nursery 1999)

Color - Medio-variegated
Size - Medium (15"ht x 32"w)
Habit - Mounding
Bloom - White
Parent - sport of 'Guacamole'

Compared to 'Guacamole', 'Stained Glass' displays its variegation earlier and maintains a more brilliant gold color through the season. Prominent veins give a "stained glass window" effect. Large fragrant near-white flowers in August.

2005 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA member Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Striptease'

(Thompson 1991)

Color - Medio-variegated
Size - Medium (20"ht x 50"w)
Habit - Mounding
Bloom - Lavender
Parent - sport of 'Gold Standard'

An outstanding hosta certain to be one of the most talked about plants in your garden. A sport of 'Gold Standard' but with wider dark green margins and a thin white stripe (the "striptease") in between. One of a kind.

2004 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA member Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Sum and Substance'

(Aden 1980)

Color - Gold

Size - Giant (31"ht x 70"w)

Habit - Mounding

Bloom - Lavender

Parent - unknown

One of the largest of all hosta cultivars. Immense, glossy textured, light green to chartreuse to gold leaves with lavender flowers in August. A unique specimen plant with thick substance that brightens the shady garden. Slug resistant.

2003 Hosta of the Year



courtesy of AHGA member Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Regal Splendor'

(Walters Gardens, Inc. 1987)

Color - Variegated

Size - Giant (30"ht x 70"w)

Habit - Upright

Bloom - Lavender

Parent - sport of 'Krossa Regal'

Creamy yellow margins on frosty blue leaves in spring changing to creamy white margins on a dark green center by mid-summer. Good substance. Lavender flowers in mid-summer. Distinct and attractive. Photo

2002 Hosta of the Year



courtesy of AHGA member Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Guacamole'

(Solberg 1994)

Color - Medio-variegated

Size - Large (24"ht x 54"w)

Habit - Mounding

Bloom - Lavender

Parent - sport of 'Fragrant Bouquet'

One of the most beautiful new hosta introductions. Large, shiny chartreuse leaves (apple green) are margined by a wide green edge. Large fragrant pale lavender flowers open in August. Rapid growth rate. Good sun tolerance. Photo

2001 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA member Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'June'

(Neo Plants Ltd. 1991)

Color - Medio-variegated
Size - Medium (16"ht x 37"w)
Habit - Mounding
Bloom - Lavender
Parent - sport of 'Halycon'

Pointed gold leaves bordered by a blue and green shaded margin. The light green center will bleach to creamy-white in bright light. Unlike many light centered hostas this one has great substance.

2000 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA member Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Sagae'

(Watanabe 1996)

Color - Variegated
Size - Giant (31"ht x 70"w)
Habit - Upright
Bloom - Lavender
Parent - sport of fluctuans

Dramatic color combination and majestic form. Large dark green leaves with margins that change from gold to creamy yellow or white by mid-summer. Pale lavender flowers in mid-summer. Good slug resistance.

1999 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA member Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Paul's Glory'

(Ruh/Hofer 1987)

Color - Medio-variegated
Size - Medium (22"ht x 55"w)
Habit - Mounding
Bloom - Lavender
Parent - sport of 'Perry's True Blue'

A spectacular hosta with gold heart-shaped leaves bordered by a dark blue-green margin. Chartreuse center slowly turns to gold (or white with sun). Pale lavender flowers in mid-summer. Vigorous.

1998 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA member Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Fragrant Bouquet'

(Aden 1982)

Color - Variegated

Size - Medium (22"ht x 48"w)

Habit - Mounding

Bloom - Lavender

Parent - 'Fascination' x 'Fragrant Summer'

This choice cultivar features apple green leaves with wide irregular yellow to cream margins. Large funnel-shaped, fragrant pale lavender nearly white flowers in mid to late summer. Excellent growth rate. Very popular.

1997 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA member Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Patriot'

(Machen 1991)

Color - Variegated

Size - Medium (22"ht x 50"w)

Habit - Mounding

Bloom - Lavender

Parent - sport of 'Francee'

The same dark green center and form of 'Francee' but with a much wider white margin that is crisp and striking. Good sun tolerance. Lavender flowers in mid-summer. Really stands out in a crowd.

1996 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA member Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'So Sweet'

(Aden 1986)

Color - Variegated

Size - Medium (22"ht x 50"w)

Habit - Mounding

Bloom - Lavender

Parent - 'Fragrant Bouquet' x a seedling

Glossy deep green leaves with wide creamy yellow margins changing to white by mid-summer. Large numbers of very fragrant pale lavender flowers in August. Incredible growth rate and sun tolerance.