

# FABULOUS FOLIAGE

## HOSTA (PLANTAIN LILY)

### CULTIVARS

There are over **600 Hosta cultivars available**. See attached for a sampling of diverse cultivars.

### FOLIAGE

Clump forming perennial grown mainly for its foliage which can vary from chartreuse to dark green, gold, blue, white or a combination of these colours. Foliage comes in a wide range of sizes, shapes and forms – from huge to tiny, cupped, flat, heart-shaped, lance-shaped, vase-shaped, corrugated, deeply veined, folded, rippled, glaucous, misted, streaked and twisted to name a few!

### FLOWERS

Bell or funnel-shaped flowers on stalks that rise well above the foliage and bloom in late spring or summer. Flowers are most often pink, lilac, or lavender, but may also be white. Some of the cultivars with white flowers are delicately scented.

### HARDINESS ZONES

3 to 9.

### LIGHT REQUIREMENTS

Partial shade to full shade, although some cultivars can tolerate quite a bit of sun. Vigorous Hosta can survive better in deep shade. Hostas with thicker lighter coloured leaves handle sun better. Fragrant Hosta can handle sun and heat better.

### SIZE

Varies greatly depending on the cultivar. Height: Miniature Hosta – 2-3 in. (5-10 cm); giant Hosta – 3 feet (1 metre); Other cultivars can be 30 cm tall and wide. A hosta clump will slowly spread from its rhizomatous roots over a number of years. Can be dug up and divided easily.

### GROWTH RATE

Fast, medium, and slow-growing varieties. Smaller varieties tend to grow fastest and can reach their mature size in 3 to 5 years. Larger types can take 5 to 7 years.

### WATER / SOIL REQUIREMENT

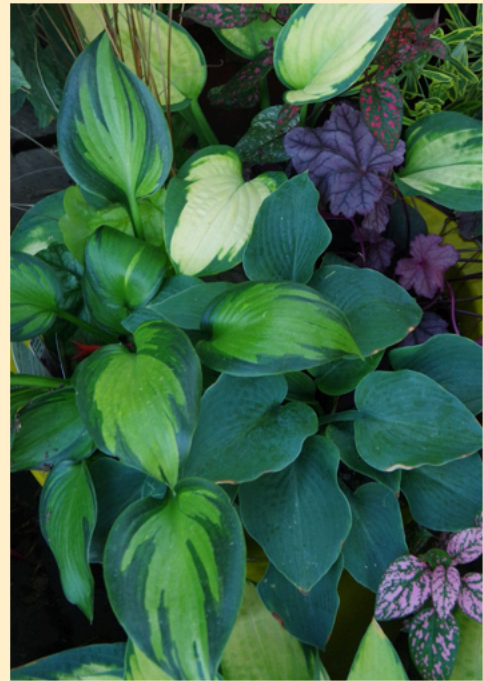
Average soil – sandy or clay. Neutral soil. Average water needs, but do not like overly dry conditions.

### PESTS

Generally pest and disease free but slugs and snails are attracted to the foliage, chewing jagged holes in the leaves. Leaves can be severely damaged by hail storms.

### PLACEMENT

Great plant for shady areas. A shady bed planted with a variety of different hosta cultivars can create a wonderfully diverse panorama. Very effective in groups or massed. Good background plant. Most require very little attention. Can be used in containers, as a cut flower, as a focal piece, or to attract butterflies.



Sources  
Nihostas.com  
Missouribotanicalgarden.org  
Perennialresource.com  
Images  
Judy Gray

