

IV. BENEDICT GARDEN PERFORMANCE AWARDS PLAN

IV-A. Purpose of the Benedict Garden Performance Awards Plan

The Benedict Garden Performance Awards Plan, which was established in 2003 and amended in 2015, and again in 2020 by The American Hosta Society (AHS), is designed to recognize hostas that demonstrate superior garden performance – garden worthy plants that have passed the test of time, that exhibit cultural superiority, and that can be appreciated in the landscape both from a distance and under close observation. These awards are named in honor of the late Dr. Ralph H. (Herb) Benedict, one of the great pioneers of improving the genus *Hosta* through hybridization, a long-time promoter of hostas as the premier shade perennial and a strong supporter of The American Hosta Society.

The system provides for three levels of awards and winners of the awards are determined by the vote of members of the American Hosta Society. The awards are presented annually at the National Convention to the originators of the winning cultivars. **The awards are limited to registered cultivars only.** To be considered for a Benedict Garden Performance Award, a cultivar must have been registered for at least three years.

IV-B. Benedict Garden Performance Awards

The American Hosta Society sponsors the following three tiers of Benedict Garden Performance Awards:

The **Benedict Garden Performance Honorable Mention Award** is a certificate designed and presented by the American Hosta Society.

The **Benedict Garden Performance Award of Merit** is a certificate designed and presented by the American Hosta Society.

The **Benedict Garden Performance Medal** is a certificate and medal, designed and presented by the American Hosta Society.

IV-C. The Awards System

When the originator/hybridizer or registrant (Hybridizer) of a cultivar determines that his or her hosta has sufficient distribution across the regions of AHS so that a large number of AHS members will be able to see it actually performing in gardens, he or she may then decide to nominate the hosta cultivar for consideration for Garden Performance Awards. Please note that the cultivar must have been registered for at least three years in order to be considered for these awards.

The Hybridizer may nominate as many as 2 cultivars each year. Nominations must be submitted to the Garden Performance Chair using Form IV-G below by February 15th of the relevant year. If the total number of nominations received from all Hybridizers is less than 3, the Benedict Garden Performance Committee may nominate up to 3 cultivars from the *Master List Of All Previously Nominated Cultivars For The Benedict Medal*. The Committee may also elect to nominate up to 2 cultivars per year that are deemed to be registered without originator data and/or cultivars that have been registered, but have not been previously been nominated from deceased Originators.

The **Benedict Garden Performance Honorable Mention Award (HM)** is the first award that a newly nominated cultivar becomes eligible to receive. Once nominated in this first tier, a cultivar is placed on the Benedict Garden Performance Honorable Mention ballot and remains eligible to receive this award for five years. If during this five-year period, it does not win an HM Award, it is removed from the ballot. The cultivars receiving the most votes shall win the HM award based on the following: In 2020, 2021, and 2022 up to the top 5 cultivars. In 2023 and thereafter, up to the top 3 cultivars.

In the case of the tie, each shall win the HM award and all winners shall then become eligible for the next tier of awards, the **Benedict Garden Performance Award of Merit (AM)**.

All HM award winners are automatically added to the **Benedict Garden Performance Award of Merit (AM)** ballot and remain eligible to receive this award for five years. The cultivars receiving the top votes shall win the Award of Merit based on the following: In 2020, 2021, and 2022, the top 1 cultivar. In 2023 and thereafter, up to the top 3 cultivars.

In case of a tie for the final spot, all tied cultivars will receive the award. Winners of the AM advance to the third tier and compete for the Benedict Garden Performance Medal.

The top garden performance award is the **Benedict Garden Performance Medal**. For a hosta to receive this prestigious award, it must truly be an outstanding garden performer across the country as evidenced by it having already received both the HM and the AM awards. Once a cultivar has received an AM award, it is added to the ballot for the Benedict Garden Performance Medal and remains eligible for the medal for five years. One hosta will receive the Benedict Medal each year. In case of a tie for the final spot, all tied cultivars shall receive the award.

IV-D. Procedures for Nomination of Cultivars

The following rules and procedures apply to nominations for these awards:

- 1. The hosta cultivar must have been registered for at least three years prior to the year of nomination.** Under this rule, nominations made by February 15, 2022 for inclusion on the 2022 ballot for example must be for cultivars registered in 2019 or earlier. A hosta cultivar is to be considered registered on the date of approval of the registration by the Registrar.
- 2. Only the originator/hybridizer or registrant (as indicated in the registration data), or Benedict Awards Committee may nominate a cultivar.**
- 3. Each originator/hybridizer or registrant may nominate a maximum of seven two cultivars each year.**
- 4. The originator/hybridizer or registrant must submit nominations in writing or email to the Garden Performance Chair by no later than February 15 of each year.** The Benedict Garden Performance Awards Nomination Form in this section of the Handbook may be reproduced and used to list nominations or the originator may provide the information, complete and legible, in letter form. The nomination should list the name of the cultivar and the year of registration. The Garden Performance Chair will acknowledge all nominations within three weeks of receipt. The Chair should be contacted immediately for any nominations not acknowledged within three weeks.

The Benedict Awards Committee reserves the right, in the case of questionable originator data, to direct that the award recognizing the plant be announced without presentation to the originator of record, and that in such cases no publicity regarding the award advertise the questionable originator.

- 5. The Benedict Awards Committee shall consist of 5 the Chairs under the direction of the Vice President of Judging and Exhibitions. They are the Judges Exhibition Chair, Judges Training Chair, Judges Records Chair, Judges Classifications Chair and, the Benedict Garden Performance Chair who will also Chair the Benedict Awards Committee.** The purpose of the Committee is to renominate cultivars previously nominated for the Benedict Awards from the Benedict category, but did not win the Benedict Medal and were removed from the ballot after the designated time period. Nominations by the Committee will be made from the *Master List Of All Previously Nominated Cultivars For The Benedict Medal* database that is maintained and made available from the Benedict Garden Performance Chair. This official database tabulates all dates and awards that every previously nominated cultivar has received prior to being removed from the ballot, and all are eligible for renomination by the Committee from the Benedict category only. The Committee shall vote on their collective nominations and forward their nominations to the Vice President of Judging and Exhibitions. In the case of a tie vote that cannot be resolved by the committee, the Vice President of Judging and Exhibitions shall cast a tie breaking

vote. Further, the Committee reserves the right to nominate up to 2 cultivars per year that are deemed to be registered without originator data and/or cultivars that have been registered, and not previously been nominated from deceased Originators.

IV-E. Benedict Garden Performance Awards Voting Requirements and Procedures

IV-E-1. Voting Requirements

In order to vote for the Benedict Awards, a person should have the following qualifications:

1. Must be a member of The American Hosta Society for a minimum of three years.
2. Should have an extensive demonstrated knowledge of hostas.
3. Should have a demonstrated ability to visit a representative cross-section of gardens in his or her Region.

IV-E-2. Balloting Procedures

The Garden Performance Chair prepares ballots for the Benedict Garden Performance Awards in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Benedict Garden Performance Awards System and makes available the ballots by April 15 of each year. The ballot must be returned to the Garden Performance Chair by 2 weeks after the Fall Journal is distributed with the Benedict Ballot inside. Ballots can also be obtained from the Benedict Garden Performance Chair or from visiting the AHS website.

The Garden Performance Chair will then compile the results and provide them to the Vice President – Awards and Honors, the Vice President – Judging and Exhibitions.

Although it is an honor to vote for the Benedict Garden Performance Awards, it also generates a responsibility for all American Hosta Society members to view gardens and to observe as many cultivars as possible in order to be able to make an informed decision about garden performance. Voting for the Benedict Garden Performance Awards reinforces the importance of garden viewing, a requirement for all AHS members. Votes should be based on actual observed performance within one's own region and/or at National Convention tour gardens. Any AHS member wishing to vote should reflect on previous years' observed performance for consideration when voting, but must reinforce that perception with garden visits during the voting year.

IV-F. Presentation of Awards and Publicity

The Vice President – Awards and Honors is will secure and present the Benedict Garden Performance Awards at the American Hosta Society National Convention each year.

Award winners will be published in *The Hosta Journal* and on the AHS Website after presentation of the awards at the National Convention.

IV-G

**AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY
BENEDICT GARDEN PERFORMANCE AWARDS NOMINATION FORM**

To be eligible for nomination for Benedict Garden Performance Awards, hosta cultivars must meet the following criteria:

- The cultivar must demonstrate superior garden performance.
- The cultivar must be named and registered.
- The cultivar must have been registered for at least three years.
- The cultivar must not have been previously nominated.

Only the originator of the cultivar or The Benedict Awards Committee of the American Hosta Society may nominate hosta cultivars for these awards. Each may nominate a maximum of two (2) cultivars each year.

To nominate hosta cultivars for Benedict Garden Performance awards, please complete this form, listing the cultivars you desire to nominate. Return this form by February 15 to The American Hosta Society Garden Performance Chair. The Garden Performance Chair will acknowledge receipt of this nomination form within three weeks of receipt. Should acknowledgement not be received within three weeks, please contact the Garden Performance Chair immediately to ensure nominations are properly recorded for this year's ballot.

(Please print all information legibly.)

Date _____, 20__

<u>Name of Cultivar</u>	<u>Originator</u>	<u>Year of Registration</u>
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____

Signature of Originator _____