

Third Edition



Hosta of the Year



HOSTA
OF THE
YEAR

1996- 2027



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and

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The AHGA Hosta of the Year (1996-2025)

The American Hosta Growers Association established the AHGA Hosta of the Year program in 1996. The winners were 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 \$15.00 to \$20.00 in the year of selection. The AHGA Hosta of the Year program was terminated in 2025. The criteria used by AHGA was primarily for marketing purposes.

The AHS Hosta of the Year (2026-Present)

With the termination of the AHGA Hosta of the Year program in 2025, the American Hosta Society Board decided to continue the Hosta of the Year program with new guidelines for selection of the AHS Hosta of the Year. The winner of the AHS Hosta of the Year uses the winner of the Benedict Garden Performance Award as the Hosta of the Year for the following year. If the Benedict Garden Performance Award winner has previously been an AHGA Hosta of the Year selection, a previous recent Benedict Garden Performance Award winner is selected as the next AHS Hosta of the Year. The new criteria used by AHS are not for marketing purposes but are meant to guide gardeners to hostas that have demonstrated excellent garden performance.

AHS Selection Cultivar Descriptions (2026-present)

2028 Hosta of the Year

TBA

2027 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of Steve Cunningham

‘Clear Fork River Valley’

(V. Wade, 2007)

Color – Deep Blue Green

Size – Large (30"ht × 54"w)

Habit – Mounding

Bloom – Pure White

Parentage – *H.* 'Puckered Giant' x *H.* 'Woodland Blue'
Large, nearly round deeply pucker – corrugated deep green; glaucous bloom on top; glaucous bloom underneath. Pure white flowers.

2026 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of Walters Gardens

‘Halcyon’

(E. Smith and BHHS, 1998)

Color – Blue

Size – Medium (24"ht × 47"w)

Habit – Mounding

Bloom – Pale Lavender

Parentage - Tardiana Group; a group of hybrids resulting from a cross between *H.* ‘Tardiflora’ and *H. sieboldiana* var. *elegans*. Leaves are frosty blue-green and pointed. This cultivar retains blue leaf color longer than most other blue hostas. A superb grower with thick leaves, demonstrating good slug resistance. Pale blue-violet flowers appear on 28" scapes in midsummer.

AHGA Selection Cultivar Descriptions (1996-2025)

2025 – ‘Skywriter’
2023 – ‘Neptune’ PP19,674
2021 – ‘Rainbow’s End’ PP17,251
2019 – ‘Lakeside Paisley Print’
2017 – ‘Brother Stefan’
2015 – ‘Victory’
2013 – ‘Rainforest Sunrise’
2011 – ‘Praying Hands’
2009 – ‘Earth Angel’
2007 – ‘Paradigm’
2005 – ‘Striptease’
2003 – ‘Regal Splendor’
2001 – ‘June’
1999 – ‘Paul’s Glory’
1997 – ‘Patriot’

2024 – ‘Mini Skirt’
2022 – ‘Island Breeze’ PP27,151
2020 – ‘Dancing Queen’
2018 – ‘World Cup’
2016 – ‘Curly Fries’
2014 – ‘Abiqua Drinking Gourd’
2012 – ‘Liberty’
2010 – ‘First Frost’
2008 – ‘Blue Mouse Ears’
2006 – ‘Stained Glass’
2004 – ‘Sum and Substance’
2002 – ‘Guacamole’
2000 – ‘Sagae’
1998 – ‘Fragrant Bouquet’
1996 – ‘So Sweet’

2025 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of AHGA

‘Skywriter’

(D. Wols, NR)

Color - Blue

Size - Medium (17"ht x 46"w)

Habit - Semi-upright

Bloom - Lavender

Parentage - Marilyn Monroe’ x (‘Neptune’ x ‘Smoke Signals’)

Beautiful ruffled blue leaves held on deep purple petioles in a semi-upright manner. The petioles and the white backs of the leaves are easily seen creating a stunning visual. Lavender flowers.

2024 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of Walters Gardens, Inc.

‘Mini Skirt’

(Walters Gardens, Inc. 2013)

Color - Variegated

Size - Mini (7"ht x 14"w)

Habit - Mounding

Bloom - Purple

Parentage - sport of ‘Mighty Mouse’

Wavy, thick, blue-green leaves with creamy yellow margins in spring turning to creamy white by summer. Pale purple flowers on short scapes in mid-summer.

2023 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of Barry Ankney

'Neptune' PP19,674

(H. Hansen - 2006)

Color – Blue-green

Size – Medium (24"ht × 47"w)

Habit – Mounding

Bloom – Pale Lavender

Parent – ('Mackawa' × 'Halcyon') × 'Salute'

Narrow wedge-shaped leaves are bright glaucous blue in spring. As the season progresses, the leaves turn more blue green. The heavily rippled leaves are of good substance. 'Neptune' has a lovely cascading form.

2022 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of Walters Gardens, Inc.

'Island Breeze' PP27,151

(Walters Gardens, Inc. - 2014)

Color – Medio-variegated

Size – Small (12"ht × 28"w)

Habit – Mounding

Bloom – Medium Lavender tubular

Parent – TC sport of 'Fire Island'

The yellow, chartreuse-centered leaf has red speckling on the petioles and the lower third of the leaf blade. The intensity of the yellow leaf center depends on the level of sun exposure. Moderate growth rate.

2021 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of Walters Gardens, Inc.

'Rainbow's End' PP17,251

(H. Hansen - 2005)

Color – Medio-variegated

Size – Small (11"ht × 21"w)

Habit – Mounding

Bloom – Purple

Parent – Sport of 'Obsession'

This yellow-centered TC sport of 'Obsession' features very thick, dark green leaves with a flared center pattern. The bright yellow center becomes white by summer. Pale purple flowers on red scapes.

2020 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of Kent Terpening

‘Dancing Queen’

(K. Terpening - 2005)

Color - Gold

Size – Medium (18"ht × 30"w)

Habit – Mounding

Bloom – Lavender

Parent – ‘Split Personality’ seedling

Bright yellow foliage is broad and wedge-shaped with a rippled edge. Turns pale yellow later in the season. Pale lavender flowers in mid-summer.

2019 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of Barry Ankney

‘Lakeside Paisley Print’

(M. Chastain - 2006)

Color – Medio-variegated

Size – Small (10"ht × 30"w)

Habit – Mounding

Bloom – Pale Lavender with darker striping

Parent – seedling × 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 Meyer

‘World Cup’

(D. Beilsten / M. Zilis - 2006)

Color – Gold

Size – Large (23"ht × 43"w)

Habit – Upright

Bloom – Purple

Parent – ‘Komodo Dragon’ × ‘Super Bowl’

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

2017 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of Olga Petryszyn

'Brother Stefan'

(O. Petryszyn - 1998)

Color – Medio-variegated

Size – Medium (22"ht × 36"w)

Habit – Mounding

Bloom – White

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

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

2016 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of Made in the Shade Gardens

'Curly Fries'

(R. Solberg - 2008)

Color – Gold

Size – Small (11"ht × 20"w)

Habit – Mounding

Bloom – Lavender

Parent – 'Pineapple Upsidedown Cake' × 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 Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Victory'

(M. Zilis/ R. Solberg - 2003)

Color – Marginally Variegated

Size – Giant (30"ht × 70"w)

Habit – Upright

Bloom – White

Parent – Sport of '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 Made in the Shade Gardens

‘Abiqua Drinking Gourd’

(Walden West - 1989)

Color – Blue

Size – Medium (22"ht × 46"w)

Habit – Mounding

Bloom – White

Parent – ‘Tokudama’ × *H. sieboldiana*

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

2013 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of Made in the Shade Gardens

‘Rainforest Sunrise’

(Winterberry Farms/ K. Anderson - 2003)

Color – Medio-variegated

Size – Small (10"ht × 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 Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

‘Liberty’ PP12,531

(J. Machen, Jr - 2000)

Color – Marginally Variegated

Size – Large (26"ht × 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.

2011 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

‘Praying Hands’

(G. Williams - 1996)

Color – Marginally Variegated

Size – Medium (16"ht × 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 Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

‘First Frost’

(P. Scolnik/ R. Solberg - 2002)

Color – Marginally Variegated

Size – Medium (15"ht × 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 Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

‘Earth Angel’

(H. Hansen/Shady Oaks Nursery - 2002)

Color – Marginally Variegated

Size – Giant (30"ht × 60"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 Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

‘Blue Mouse Ears’

(E. & J. Deckert - 2000)

Color – Blue

Size – Mini (8"ht × 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 Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

‘Paradigm’

(C. Purtyman/ Walden West - 1999)

Color – Medio-variegated

Size – Medium (22"ht × 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 Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

‘Stained Glass’

(H. Hansen/Shady Oaks Nursery - 1999)

Color – Medio-variegated

Size – Medium (15"ht × 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 throughout 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 Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Striptease'

(C. & R. Thompson - 1991)

Color – Medio-variegated

Size – Medium (20"ht × 50"w)

Habit – Mounding

Bloom – Lavender

Parent – Sport of 'Gold Standard'

An outstanding hosta which is 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 Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Sum and Substance'

(F. Shaw - 1980)

Color – Gold

Size – Giant (31"ht × 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



Photo courtesy of Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Regal Splendor'

(Walters Gardens, Inc. - 1987)

Color – Marginally Variegated

Size – Giant (30"ht × 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.

2002 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

‘Guacamole’

(R. Solberg - 1994)

Color – Medio-variegated
Size – Large (24"ht × 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.

2001 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

‘June’

(Neo Plants Ltd. - 1991)

Color – Medio-variegated
Size – Medium (16"ht × 37"w)

Habit – Mounding

Bloom – Lavender

Parent – Sport of ‘Halcyon’

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 Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

‘Sagae’

(K. Watanabe - 1996)

Color – Variegated
Size – Giant (31"ht × 70"w)

Habit – Upright

Bloom – Lavender

Parent – Sport of *H. 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 Barry Ankney

'Paul's Glory'

(P. Ruh/ P. Hofer - 1987)

Color – Medio-variegated

Size – Medium (22"ht × 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 grower.

1998 Hosta of the Year



Photo courtesy of Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Fragrant Bouquet'

(K. Vaughn - 1982)

Color – Variegated

Size – Medium (22"ht × 48"w)

Habit – Mounding

Bloom – Lavender

Parent – 'Fascination' × '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 Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'Patriot'

(J. Machen, Jr - 1991)

Color – Variegated

Size – Medium (22"ht × 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 Shady Oaks Nursery, LLC

'So Sweet'

(K. Vaughn - 1986)

Color – Variegated

Size – Medium (22"ht × 50"w)

Habit – Mounding

Bloom – Lavender

Parent – 'Fragrant Bouquet' × 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.



Enjoy the carefree beauty of this shade-tolerant perennial

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