

Hosta - Plant



Hosta is an easy-to-grow, long-lived, shade-loving perennial that is prized for its colorful leaves.

Rating: Not Rated Yet

Price

Sales price R 356

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Description

Description for Hosta

Designating any one plant the "perfect" perennial invariably provokes a lively debate among gardeners. However for gardening in the shade, one plant stands head and shoulders above the rest. Hostas are shade-tolerant, low maintenance, quite forgiving, incredibly elegant and, quite possibly, habit-forming.

Hostas are hardy, herbaceous perennials meaning they emerge each spring from winter dormancy. Unlike many perennials, they are primarily grown for their foliage.

Common name	Flower colours	Bloom time	Height	Difficulty
Plantain Lily, Funkias	white and lavender, Foliage colors range from chartreuse to deep blue-green, and many varieties have striking variegation.	Summer	6 inches to 3 ft.	Easy care/low maintenance

Planting and care

Hostas are generally purchased as potted plants which means they can be planted any time during the growing season including summer and fall as long as adequate moisture is provided. Work organic matter into the soil at the time of planting.

If the hosta is root-bound in the container, tease the roots loose before planting. Use a root stimulator solution at the time of planting to encourage root growth, then mulch to a depth of 1" to 1-1/2". Keep the soil evenly moist for at least a couple of months or until the plant is established.

Sunlight	Soil	Water	Temperature	Fertilizer
Light to full shade.	Well drained soil. For the best care of hostas, plant them in rich organic soil with a slightly acidic pH.	When placed in sites with more sun exposure, additional water will be needed to help avoid leaf scorch. While trees provide essential shade, they also compete with hostas for moisture and nutrients. Once established, hosta can tolerate a drier shade although they will always be more vigorous with consistent moisture.	The plants need about eight weeks of temperatures below forty degrees. Freeze and thaw can harm the plants if you are in an area that experiences warm days and extremely cold nights.	Hosta growers prefer an annual application of 10-10-10.

Caring for Hosta

- Once your plant is established, hosta care becomes a matter of simple maintenance.
- To keep your growing hostas healthy, fertilize them each spring with an all-purpose garden fertilizer.
- Additional summer fertilizing may be helpful, but not necessary.
- Granular fertilizers should never sit on the leaves.
- Another difficulty in hosta care is slugs, which leave unsightly holes in the leaves.
- A light scattering of sand around your plants will help keep them away.

Typical uses of Hosta

Special features:

Ornamental use: Hosta plants are a beautiful addition to any garden and fit well in a variety of spaces, ranging from a few inches to four feet across. Care of hostas is easy and now you've discovered the basics of how to grow hostas, you'll find them a welcome addition to your yard.

References

- <http://perfectperennials.tripod.com/id1.html>
- <http://homeguides.sfgate.com/common-name-hosta-67795.html>