

HOW TO REGISTER A HOSTA

The following instructions are valid as of June 1, 2025 and are written to be in compliance with the Ninth Edition of the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* (ICNCP). To keep things as consistent and simple as possible, we strongly encourage using the online registration tool available at

<https://www.hostaregistrar.org/>

SECTION 1 – GENERAL PROCESS

Each registrant may use the online registration tool to register ten cultivars each year with no fee being charged. For those who cannot register online, the registrar will process your application manually for \$25 per cultivar registration. The actual data required for registration is described in Section 2. Many find it helpful to use a worksheet to gather the necessary information prior to entering the data online. Refer to Section 3 for accessing a sample worksheet.

ONLINE PROCESS: After gathering your information, go to the webpage noted above and:

- Select "Register a Hosta" then the "Register Online" button. Enter your registration details into the appropriate field(s).
- If the Originator is someone other than the Registrant, email a copy of the Originator's permission to register their cultivar to: HostaRegistry@gmail.com

MANUAL PROCESS: For those who cannot register online, the registrar will complete the registration process for \$25 per cultivar registration. Registrant **MUST** have a valid email address to share registration information and photographs with the Registrar. Contact Gayle Hartley Alley at: HostaRegistry@gmail.com for more information.

REQUIRED DIGITAL PHOTOS

The online registration process requires submission of the three photographs listed below. Additional photos are encouraged - especially when a unique feature can be displayed. Images must be in focus and the plant (leaf or flower) should fill most of the image without extending beyond the edges. For the rare occasion when registering a hosta that does not flower, it's necessary to submit something in the box for a flower photo. You may submit a duplicate clump or leaf photo, a photo of your dog, any photo at all may be used so the registration process can be completed. The Registrar will handle the extraneous photograph upon review.

- the entire clump as close as practical
- close-up of a typical leaf
- close-up of typical flower

SECTION 2 – REQUIRED REGISTRATION DATA

Items appearing in bold-face print are required for registration. Making sure these items are completed properly will save time and give you a better registration. An explanation of each field is provided below. Although you are not required to complete the optional items, this information is helpful to other hybridizers, growers and consumers. You are strongly encouraged to complete as much optional information as possible. In some instances, the registrar might complete some of this optional information for you, based upon the photographs you submitted.

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CULTIVAR NAME

The name must be an acceptable and available name, one that has not been used before, and one that is not likely to be confused (in spelling or pronunciation) with a name that has already been registered. To speed the registration process, you are encouraged to offer an ALTERNATE NAME in case your first choice is not allowed.

REGISTRANT INFORMATION

The complete name, phone, email address and street address must be provided. Should this information be incomplete, the registration will not be processed.

INTRODUCER

The complete name of the introducer must be given. The introducer is the person who brought the cultivar into commerce or offered the plant to others for distribution. If this field is left blank, it is assumed the Registrant is also the Introducer.

ORIGINATOR

The originator is the person from whom the cultivar was first obtained. If this field is left blank, it is assumed the Registrant is also the Originator. If the Originator is someone other than the Registrant, the Originator's permission must be obtained. Email permission is acceptable.

NOMINANT (Namer)

The nominant is the person who derived the cultivar name being registered. If this field is left blank, it is assumed the Registrant is also the Nominant.

PARENTAGE

Space is provided to indicate whether you are registering a sport or a seedling along with fields to enter the sport parent or the seedling's pod and pollen parents. Enter NA into those fields that don't apply. For example, if "Sport" is selected, enter NA into both the Seedling Pod and Pollen Parent fields.

CLUMP AGE and **HISTORY**

As hostas can take some time to exhibit mature characteristics, the age of the clump at time of registration is a required element of registration.

CLUMP ORIGIN

Indicate whether you obtained your specimen from the Originator (if other than yourself) a Nursery or some other source. If this is your own origination, select "yourself."

CLUMP LOCATION

Hostas can show variable growth characteristics depending upon where they are grown, thus the growing location is required.

WHAT DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERISTICS . . .

This is where you describe what makes your plant unique.

MEASURING UNITS

Select which units are used to record dimensions (e.g., inches or centimeters).

US PLANT PATENT OR BREEDERS' RIGHTS

A simple Yes or No response. If yes, the registrar will gather necessary details.

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PLANT WIDTH and PLANT HEIGHT

As noted above, hostas can take some time to exhibit mature characteristics. The size of the clump at time of registration is a required element of registration. Giving accurate clump measurements (coupled with location and age details) provides for much better identification criteria. The most common error is entering height & width dimensions in the wrong field. Please read carefully and enter dimensions accurately.

PLANT HABIT

The habit (or form) is another criterion used for selecting a hosta. Upright cultivars (think *H. 'Krossa Regal'*) vs mound-like cultivars require different placement strategies within the garden. For these reasons you are encouraged to include this information.

GROWTH RATE

Hosta growth rates are highly variable and can affect the placement of a plant, or its selection for limited space settings.

COLOR and MARGIN SIZE (if present)

Color is usually the key distinction between hostas. Thus, precision in color descriptions is of utmost value. Equally important is the size and color of any marginal variegation. The more detail provided, the better the registration will be. Standard color descriptions are listed below. The use of more specific terms, or use of Royal Horticultural Society color numbers, is acceptable.

- light green, medium green, dark green
- slightly blue green, moderately blue green, intensely blue green
- greenish yellow, pale yellow, yellow, golden yellow
- greenish white, creamy white, pure white
- green speckling or white speckling
- streaked with (color listed above)
- mottled with (color listed above)

LEAF WIDTH and LEAF LENGTH

As hostas are grown for their foliage, leaf size is a critical characteristic. Another common error is entering length & width dimensions in the wrong field. Please read carefully and enter dimensions accurately.

VEIN PAIRS

The average number of vein pairs often provides some insight into the parentage of the plant, which can aid in identifying unknown cultivars.

SEASONAL COLOR VARIATION

Seasonal changes in color can be a distinguishing characteristic. However, most hostas lighten up with greater light intensity, or blue hostas will become green with overhead watering. What is being requested here are color changes which vary from the norm. Enter "na" if no unusual changes occur.

APPEARANCE OF THE MARGIN

Look at your leaf and think of how you would describe the edges of the leaves. Are they relatively flat, slightly rippled, heavily rippled or serrated?

LEAF TEXTURE

Look at your leaf and think about how you would describe its texture (both top and bottom) using the terms: dull, slightly shiny, very shiny or glaucous bloom. Glaucous bloom is referring to a waxy coating.

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APPEARANCE OF THE LEAF

Decide how to best describe the leaf appearance. If the leaf is relatively flat overall, select "yes" and leave the remaining information blank. If your leaf is **not** relatively flat, use the modifiers **Lightly**, **Moderately**, **Deeply**, or **Intensely** as applied to the terms: cupped, twisted, folded, wavy or corrugated. You can designate as many as are applicable.

MISC CHARACTERISTICS

This is where you may enter any information that doesn't seem to fit in with the other categories. Substance, deeply impressed veins, white backs, unique petioles, prolific blooming, longevity, etc. Be as descriptive as possible.

LEAF SHAPE

Look at a typical leaf and match it to the shape below that it most closely resembles.



Lance



Elliptic



Ovate



Broadly Ovate



Nearly Round

LEAF BASE

Look at the base of your leaf and match it to the shape below that it most closely resembles.



Tapered



Flat



Heart-Shaped [cordate]



Rounded

FLOWER COLOR

Flower color is often used to identify a plant, and as a guide to its parentage. For some, a specific color may also be a desired trait.

SCAPE HEIGHT

Measure the scape from the point where it leaves the crown through its uppermost growth.

SCAPE COLOR

Scape color is becoming a distinguishing trait for many hybridizers, and for some, a specific color may be sought after.

FLOWER LENGTH

Measure the flower from the outermost tip of the petal to the base where it connects to the pedicel.

FRAGRANCE

Simply put, flowers are either fragrant or not. Enter Yes or No.

UNIQUE BRACTS

Bracts are leaves growing on the scape at the point where the flowers extend from the scape. Bracts are also called "inflorescence leaves." They can vary in size and appearance, some enhancing, some detracting from the overall look of the cultivar. Please describe if your bracts are atypical.

BLOOM TIME

Bloom season begins when the first flower appears and ends when the last flower begins blooming. Selections for general time spans are provided which offer a simple method of designating the flowering period or, you may enter specific dates for the bloom start, bloom peak and bloom finish. If both methods are entered, the more specific dates will appear in the published registration document.

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FLOWER SHAPE

Look at the flower and match it up to the overall shape below that it most closely resembles. Additionally, a field is provided for you to indicate if the flowers have some other unique configuration.



Tubular



Bell



Spider



Closed



Double

FLOWER COLOR PATTERNS

Examine the flower for unique details such as stripes (e.g., white on lavender, lavender on white), translucent areas or other unusual flower details.

SET SEED

Look at the flower scape. Are there oblong objects where the flowers once were? If so, your plant has set seed.

IS THE SEED VIABLE

If your seed pods ripen and germinate, then you have viable seeds.

SEED POD COLOR

Describe the base color (and any color variegation) observed in the seed pods.

SECTION 3 – REGISTRATION WORKSHEET

Worksheets for registration are available as follows:

- Last two pages of this document
- Emailing a request to HostaRegistry@gmail.com

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SECTION 4 – ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

REGISTRAR CONTACT INFORMATION

Gayle Hartley Alley
International Registrar *Genus* Hosta
33001 E 155th Street
Pleasant Hill, MO 64080-9365
Phone: (816) 914-3220
General Email: GiboshiGayle@gmail.com
Registration Specific Email: HostaRegistry@gmail.com

HOSTA TERMS

A key to hosta terminology may be found on the AHS website. Please refer to <https://americanhostasociety.org/hosta-dictionary/> to review a list of commonly used terms.

NAMING A HOSTA WITH A PERSON'S NAME - - PERMISSION STATEMENTS

The permission documents included on the following two pages, shall be used to obtain the written permission of a person whose name you wish to use as the name of a cultivar.

If the person is **living**, you must have written permission of said person before the name can be used as a name for a hosta. Use **Part A** if the living person is within your immediate family or **Part B** if the person is not closely related.

If the person is **deceased**, you must make every effort to gain permission from the estate of the deceased person. Use **Part C** if the deceased person is within your immediate family or **Part D** if the person was not closely related.

Any Registrant who ultimately registers a hosta using the name of another person, assumes all legal responsibility for the use of that person's name and agrees to indemnify and hold The American Hosta Society harmless from any and all claims regarding such conduct, including payment of court costs, expenses and reasonable attorney's fees. The Registrant must sign and date **Part E** in addition to completing Part A, B, C or D.

Registration Worksheet



(Cultivar Name)

(Alternate Name)

General Information

Registrant's
Name: _____

Address: _____

Street Address

Apartment/Unit #

City

State

ZIP Code

Phone: _____

Email _____

Introducer: _____

Originator: _____

Nominant (Namer): _____

Is the cultivar a Sport? YES NO If yes, enter Sport Parent's Name _____

Is the cultivar a Seedling? YES NO If yes, enter parentage below.

Pod Parent: _____

Pollen Parent: _____

The clump described is _____ years old

The clump described is (circle all that apply): ---Original Seedling---Original Sport---Tissue Cultured---Unknown History

The clump was obtained from (circle one): ---Yourself---A Nursery---the Originator---Other Source (explain below):

The clump is growing in (city/state/country): _____

What characteristics make this cultivar unique from other hostas? _____

All measurements entered herein are in (circle one):

INCHES

CENTIMETERS

Plant Patent or Breeders' Rights

Is there a US Plant Patent, or Breeders' Rights applied for? YES NO

Plant Details

Plant Width: _____

Plant Height: _____

Plant Habit (circle one): Upright

Mound

Rhizomatous

Growth Rate (circle one): Slow

Moderate

Fast

Leaf Details

Center (or Single) Color Description: _____

Margin Color Description: _____

Leaf Width: _____ Leaf Length: _____ Margin Width: _____ Vein Pairs (range): _____

Seasonal Color Change that is out of the norm: _____

Are the leaf edges? Flat Slightly Rippled Heavily Rippled Serrated Something Else: _____

Is the top surface? Dull Slightly Shiny Very Shiny Glaucous Something Else: _____

Is the bottom surface? Dull Slightly Shiny Very Shiny Glaucous Something Else: _____



Use one of the bold letters below to describe any applicable leaf characteristics that follow (*select as many as needed*).

Lightly **M**oderately **D**eeply **I**ntensely (*if no designations appear - leaves will be recorded as relatively flat overall*)

Cupped _____ Twisted _____ Folded _____ Wavy _____ Corrugated _____

Misc Characteristics (describe) _____

Leaf Shape (select one):  Lance  Elliptic  Ovate  Broadly Ovate  Nearly Round

Leaf Base (select one):  Tapered  Flat  Heart-shaped [cordate]  Rounded

Flower, Scape and Pod Details

Flower Color (select one): White Near White Pale Lavender Medium Lavender Pale Purple

Deep Purple Other (please describe) _____

Scape Height: _____ to _____ Scape Color: _____ Flower Length: _____ Fragrant? _____

Unique Bracts? (*describe - if present*) _____

Bloom Start (month/day) _____ Bloom Peak (month/day) _____ Bloom Finish (month/day) _____

Flower Shape (select one):  Tubular  Bell  Spider  Closed  Double

Other (*describe*) _____

Flower Color/Patterns (*striping, translucent margins, etc. Please describe*): _____

Does it set seed? _____ If yes, is it viable? _____ Seed Pod Color? _____