

# HOW TO REGISTER A HOSTA

The following guidelines are valid as of August 1, 2020 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, please choose and follow one of the three paths laid out below.

## THREE PATHS TO HOSTA REGISTRATION

**Path 1 (Snail Mail)** – Send these items to the registrar at the mailing address listed below.

- Hard copy of the latest registration form with all bold-faced items completed in their entirety (see subsequent pages for helpful information).
- Required Digital Photos (see below)
- Written permission from the originator (if other than the registrant)
- \$5 registration fee per cultivar name. (The registrar will forward all checks to the AHS Treasurer. Make check(s) payable to "The American Hosta Society")

**Path 2 (Email)** – Email these items to [HostaRegistry@gmail.com](mailto:HostaRegistry@gmail.com)

- Digital copy of the latest registration form with all bold-faced items completed in their entirety (see subsequent pages for helpful information).
- Required Digital Photos (see below)
- Digital copy of written permission from the originator (if other than the registrant)
- Submit the \$5 registration fee (per each cultivar being registered) using the "Pay Now" button at <http://www.hostaregistrar.org/Registration/>

## **Path 3 (Online) Preferred Method**

\*\* Many find it helpful to use a copy of the printed form to gather all necessary information prior to entering their data online. The printed form includes instructions, color and blooming period Keys, and serves as a great worksheet for organizing your data. Once you've gathered everything, go to <http://www.hostaregistrar.org/Registration>

- Select the "Register a Cultivar" button and enter your registration details directly into the online fields.
- Required Digital Photos (see below)
- Email a digital copy of the permission from the originator (if other than the registrant) to [HostaRegistry@gmail.com](mailto:HostaRegistry@gmail.com)
- Use the "Pay Now" button to submit the \$5 registration fee per cultivar

## REGISTRAR CONTACT INFORMATION

Gayle Hartley Alley

**International Registrar Genus Hosta**

33001 E 155<sup>th</sup> Street

Pleasant Hill, MO 64080-9365

Phone: (816) 697-2007

General Registrar's Email: [GiboshiGayle@gmail.com](mailto:GiboshiGayle@gmail.com)

Registration Specific Email: [HostaRegistry@gmail.com](mailto:HostaRegistry@gmail.com)

## REQUIRED DIGITAL PHOTOS

Provide photographer's name for each photo, and email **at least one** of each of the following to [HostaRegistry@gmail.com](mailto:HostaRegistry@gmail.com). Do **NOT** compress, resize or in any way modify the original photo file. Images must be in focus and the plant (leaf or flower) should fill most of the image without extending beyond the edges.

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

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## REGISTRATION FORMS

The latest registration form is available three different ways:

- In the back of the "*Registrations 20xx*" supplement to *The Hosta Journal*
- From *The Hosta Treasury* website at [http://www.hostaregistrar.org/registration\\_form-printable.html](http://www.hostaregistrar.org/registration_form-printable.html)
- By emailing a request to Gayle at [GiboshiGayle@gmail.com](mailto:GiboshiGayle@gmail.com)

## RESERVING A CULTIVAR NAME

Those who wish to reserve a name may do so for a \$10.00 fee. Names are protected for three (3) years. If the full registration process is completed within that three years, the normal registration fee will be waived. Log on to <http://www.hostaregistrar.org/Registration/> and select the "Register a Name" button.

## REGISTRATION FORM – REQUIRED DATA

The items appearing in bold-face print on the registration form are required for registration. Making sure these items are completed properly will save time and give you a better registration. A detailed explanation of each field is provided below.

**Please print as neatly as possible in order to avoid confusion and errors**

### CULTIVAR and ALTERNATE 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. The registrant is the person who filled out and submitted the application for registration.

### 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.

### 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.

### MEASURING UNITS

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

### IS THE CULTIVAR BEING GROWN OR SOLD . . . . .

If the cultivar has been offered for sale under another name (or under a Trade Mark), the applicant must provide details regarding the circumstances and usage.

### HAS THIS CULTIVAR NAME EVER BEEN PUBLISHED

If the plant name and description has been used in any generally distributed publication, the applicant must provide details regarding the circumstances and usage.

# HOW TO REGISTER A HOSTA

## 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.

## 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

If you have listed yourself as the originator, please enter option 1) Yourself. If you are **not** the originator, indicate whether you obtained your specimen from 2) a Nursery, 3) the originator (named at the top of the application) or 4) some other source (fill in the blank).

## CLUMP LOCATION

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

## NOTABLE CHARACTERISTICS

This is your opportunity to point out characteristic(s) that the form does not otherwise describe, such as thickness, prolific blooming, longevity, etc. Also use this field to describe what makes your plant unique.

## PLANT PATENT or BREEDERS' RIGHTS

If a US Plant Patent or Breeders' Rights have been applied for (or granted), the applicant must provide appropriate details.

## 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) provide for much better identification criteria. The most common error when filling out the form is entering height & width dimensions in the wrong field. Please read carefully and enter dimensions accurately.

## LEAF COLOR and MARGIN SIZE (if present)

Color is usually the key distinction between hostas. Thus, precision in the color description is of utmost value. Equally important is the width and color of any marginal variegation. The more detail provided, the better the registration will be. Standard color descriptions are provided in **Key B** on the instructions page of the printed form. The use of more specific terms, or Royal Horticultural Society color numbers, is acceptable.

## 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.

## LEAF SIZE

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.

## FLOWER PERIOD

Bloom season begins when the first flower appears and ends when the last flower begins blooming. Standardized codes are provided in **Key A** on the instructions page of the printed form. These codes allow for easy designation of flowering periods, including those for the southern hemisphere. The more specific method of entering actual dates for the start/peak/finish is included in the OPTIONAL section below.

# HOW TO REGISTER A HOSTA

## 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.

## REGISTRATION FORM – OPTIONAL DATA

The form requests additional information that more fully defines the look and plant characteristics. Although you are not required to complete these optional items, this information is helpful to other hybridizers, growers and consumers. You are strongly encouraged to complete as much of this optional information as possible.

## PLANT HABIT

The habit (or form) is another criteria 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.

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF 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.

## UNIQUE PETIOLE CHARACTERISTICS

Like scape color, petiole color is becoming a distinguishing trait and for some, a specific color may be sought after. Also, the amount and shade of a color, such as red, is often a distinguishing characteristic and should be noted where possible. Sometimes variegated plants show the variegation down the petiole, which is worth noting. What is being requested here are traits which vary from the norm.

## 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?

## DESCRIPTION OF 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.

## DESCRIPTION OF LEAF APPEARANCE

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 **L**ightly, **M**oderately, **D**eeply, or **I**ntensely as applied to the terms: cupped, twisted, folded, wavy or corrugated. You can designate as many as are applicable.

## MISC LEAF CHARACTERISTICS

This is where you may enter any leaf information that doesn't seem to fit in the other categories. Substance, deeply impressed veins, white backs, etc.

## 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

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## 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

## 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 pedicle.

## 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.

## BLOOM TIME

As noted above, bloom season begins with the first flower on the cultivar to bloom and ends when the last flower on the cultivar begins blooming. Precise measurement of the dates, combined with a comparison to other known plants grown across geographic areas, allows for others to have a sense of the bloom time for the cultivar when grown in their area.

These fields may be used to enter the more specific *month/day* for the bloom start, bloom peak and bloom finish (instead of the general codes provided in Key A). If both methods are entered on the form, this more specific data will appear in the published registration document.

## FLOWER PATTERNS

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

## FLOWER SHAPE

Look at the flower and match it up to the overall shape below that it most closely resembles. Additionally, fields are provided for you to indicate if the flowers are closed, double, or some other unique configuration.



Tubular



Bell



Spider

## SET SEED

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

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## IS THE SEED VIABLE

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

## SEED POD COLOR

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

A key to hosta terminology may be found on the Hosta Registry website. Please refer to [http://www.hostaregistrar.org/hosta\\_terminology.html](http://www.hostaregistrar.org/hosta_terminology.html) to review a list of commonly used terms.

## PERMISSION STATEMENT

A permission form (available online or upon request from the Registrar) is used to obtain the written permission of a person whose name you wish to use as a name of a cultivar. If the person is living and is not a member of your immediate family, you must have written permission before the name can be used as a name for a hosta. Immediate family has been defined for this purpose as Grandparents, Parents, Brothers, Sisters, Children, and Grandchildren. Any registrant who proposes to name a hosta after a person who is deceased is required to make every effort to gain permission from the estate of the deceased person. Any member who ultimately registers a hosta using the name of a deceased person assumes all legal responsibility for the use of the deceased 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.