

# HOW TO REGISTER A HOSTA

The following instructions are valid as of Dec 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/>

The deadline for submitting applications for registration is December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Any submittals received after December 1<sup>st</sup> will be rolled over into the following calendar year.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 **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 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](mailto:HostaRegistry@gmail.com)

# HOW TO REGISTER A HOSTA

## SECTION 4 – ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

### REGISTRAR CONTACT INFORMATION

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

# NAME USE RELEASE FORM

## Part A

If this cultivar name H. ' ' is the name of a living person within your immediate family, enter that person's relationship to you (son, daughter, spouse, mother, etc.) in the space provided and then sign and date below.

"As Registrant of this cultivar I declare that I have gained permission to use my \_\_\_\_\_ name for this Hosta cultivar."

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## Part B

If this cultivar name H. ' ' is the name of a living person who is not within your immediate family, have them sign and date below.

"I hereby give the Registrant of this cultivar permission to use my name for this Hosta cultivar."

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## Part C

If the cultivar name H. ' ' is the name of a deceased person within your immediate family, enter the deceased person's relationship to you (son, daughter, spouse, mother, etc.) in the space provided and then sign and date below.

"As Registrant of this cultivar I declare that I have the authority to use my \_\_\_\_\_ name for this Hosta cultivar."

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# NAME USE RELEASE FORM

## Part D

If the cultivar name H. '\_\_\_\_\_' is the name of a deceased person who is not within your immediate family, every effort should be made to gain permission to use this name from the estate of the deceased person. The person with authority to grant permission, shall enter the deceased person's relationship to them (son, daughter, spouse, mother, etc.) in the space provided and then sign and date below.

"I hereby give the Registrant of this cultivar permission to use my deceased \_\_\_\_\_ name for this Hosta cultivar."

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

.....

## Part E

Any Registrant who uses the name of another person (when naming a registered hosta) shall complete Part A, B, C or D above in addition to this section. The Registrant signing assumes all legal responsibility for the use of the person's name. Further, it is understood that any Registrant who names a hosta by using the name of another person herewith agrees, by signing this document, 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.

Registrants Signature submitting this document \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## 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*).

**L**ightly **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? \_\_\_\_\_