

garden

By Roger Myers

Roger Myers is the President and Founder of American Beauty Landscaping. Established in 1979, ABL is the Valley's industry leader with more than 100 national, state and local awards to its landscape design and build credit.



YO0709 Log # 524

HAPPY HOSTAS!



Frequently I am asked "what is your favorite plant"? And I must answer for what?! For shade, for sunny conditions, for color, for its habit – the way it grows, for its blossoms, well you get the point. I have lots of them! However, after frequent prodding, I think I will tell you about a couple of favorites. Considering the thousand of plants that inhabit

the Earth, this is a tough job, but I'll begin with the HOSTA.

The Hosta plant is considered a herbaceous perennial, meaning it dies back each fall, and grows a totally new plant the next season. You can count on this plant returning year after year, without little care from you. That is the main reason I recommend it!

Having few enemies, except slugs, can tolerate wet or dry soil – but prefers moisture, can be grown in dense shade or open sunlight – this versatile 'ol-timer has been the gardeners' best friend for years. Whether a pro, or a novice, the numerous varieties (over 200) will keep you coming back to the green house looking for that exceptional new comer that no one else has!

Forgot to water it?...they'll forgive you..... no fertilizer?...it's OK... pruning – never, the Hosta is even Deer and Rabbit resistant (once it's a mature plant. They are a dessert when first emerging from the soil – and may be eaten to the ground!).

Hostas are grown more for their foliage than their flowers. However, some varieties have very beautiful and fragrant blossoms such as the "Plantaginea". Leaf colors range from many shades of green to blue, light and dark, to light yellow to gold, and finally variegated varieties that can have blends of all the above, in some combination or other.



If you have a densely shaded area the darker hostas will do well, the lighter varieties prefer more sunlight. There are very small varieties that are less than a foot tall, with thin leaves, that make great borders, such as Lancifolia. Contrast that with the super sized Regal, Sum and Substance, or Dream Weaver, and you can appreciate the wide variety that makes this plant so appealing. One more thing; prices can range from \$2.00 to \$32.00 depending on size and variety. Typically you can find most varieties for under \$10.00!



Recently I have run into folks who comment on my monthly article. To all "my readers", I thank you so much for your readership and your favorable comments. I certainly am not a writer, nor a journalist, but I enjoy sharing with you my thirty plus professional years and another twenty five while growing up; I have learned through experience like we all do, plus some college and I have

a passion for the beauty of a well designed landscape. If any of this interests you, well by all means – read on; I'll try again next month!

Good Luck. See you again next month!

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