

The plants to look out for in 2009

This is one of our favourite times of the year, when we add exciting new varieties to our collection and bring forward varieties for sale in the coming year.

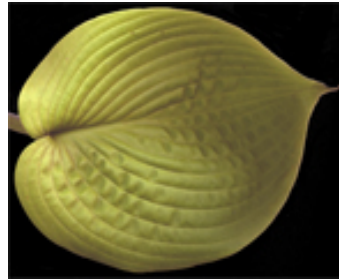
This year we will be introducing new varieties for sale, as well as re-introducing older varieties from our collection that we have not had for sale for a long time and this month we focus on a small selection of varieties we are particularly pleased to have available...

The new 'gold standard' for hostas

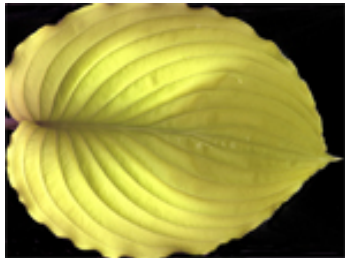
Let's inject the winter gloom with a little sunshine as we highlight our personal favourites among the gold varieties we plan to have for sale in 2009:

Starting with a giant...

H. 'Golden Sculpture' is a stunningly beautiful giant with leaves that become more rugose as they mature. This leaf image is beginning to show the textural characteristics that make this a fabulous addition to the genus. The leaves have a satin sheen to them so the gold is more subtle, especially in a sunny position, which this plant will take. The white, bell-shaped, flowers add the icing to this cultivar that we can offer for sale for the first time this year.



H. 'Golden Sculpture'



Large and luscious...

A particular favourite of ours is *h. 'Dawn's Early Light'* with its piecrust-edge leaves and drooping habit. It looks like a gold version of *h. 'Niagara Falls'* and would make an excellent planting partner for it, or *h. 'War Paint'*, especially around a water feature. It would also create an excellent contrast for many of the large-leaved blues so we are delighted to be able to offer it for sale at long last.

H. 'Dawn's Early Light'

New last year...

H. 'Choo Choo Train' is a large hosta cultivar that has distinctively ruffled leaves that are thick in texture. From a distance it creates a spectacular golden clump that looks quite different from other large golds. It has such presence we couldn't resist plugging it again this year.



H. 'Choo Choo Train'



H. 'Bright Glow'

An older favourite...

H. 'Bright Glow' is an older variety, which we exhibited in the NCCPG garden at Tatton Park. We had a number of enquiries about it so we are particularly pleased to be able to offer it for sale for the first time this year. *H. 'Bright Glow'* holds its colour extremely well throughout the season and has lovely white flowers.

Plants & prices

Our prices are currently being updated for the coming year and will range from £5 - £20 per plant. Many will be reduced in price but some will increase due to their limited availability. When pricing plants we need to consider:

The purchase price: of varieties we need to buy in and bring on at the nursery

The cost of pots and growing medium: we re-pot everything we buy in and those we retain at the end of each season

Our time: to bring on sales plants to the point where we are confident they are garden worthy

The last point is especially important with regard to varieties we can only obtain through tissue culture - **mainly the new cultivars.**

As collectors, we prefer to wait before we offer the newer varieties for sale but at the same time we need to satisfy the desire for the 'new' among our customers.

Mini cultivar - maximum impact...

There are many variegated mini cultivars becoming available but not many that could be used to provide contrast in a miniature planting scheme - *h.* 'Little Stiffy' can do just that with its mound of bright yellow green leaves.



H. 'Little Stiffy'

Aside from the golds, we are planning to also have an exciting new variety, *h.* 'Arctic Blast', which is a stunning cross between *h.* 'Komodo Dragon' and *h.* 'Elvis Lives'. It has the intensity of colour exhibited by *h.* 'Komodo Dragon' and the twisting leaf of *h.* 'Elvis Lives' - rather like a large version of *h.* 'Restless Sea'.

We recommend you also look out for *h.* 'Hacksaw'. This cultivar is like an improved version of *h.* 'Dragon Tails'. It is described as a medium-size hosta that produces its serrated looking leaves prolifically - quite unusual.

A new tetraploid sport of *h.* 'Stained Glass' has arrived called *h.* 'Cathedral Windows'. We are really looking forward to seeing how this variety grows as it promises fragrant flowers and leaf colour that intensifies as the season progresses.

Also on the list is *h.* 'Johnny Angel'. If you are looking for a large, highly textured gold then this could be the one for you. The leaves are registered as 'deeply corrugated' and 'cupped' and could be an ideal planting partner for *h.* 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'.

Finally for now, just to whet your appetite further:

- *H.* 'Katie Q', a sport of *h.* 'Marilyn' with leaves that emerge gold with a blue centre that turns green by the summer,
- *H.* 'Blue Hawaii', a newly available giant blue cultivar with fragrant pure white flowers, and
- *H.* 'Peanut', a mini hosta with lovely rippled leaf surfaces and bright colors:



H. 'Katie Q'



H. 'Blue Hawaii'



H. 'Peanut'

No wonder we get excited waiting for the season to get underway.

PSST... sorry for the delay

We had hoped to get our website and full 2009 availability and collection listings sorted out for this issue of the newsletter but events have overtaken us. We will be updating the website over the next few weeks with all the information, so next month's newsletter will contain the full details.

Next month: We will have our availability list for 2009 finalised, and more...

The advice and opinions contained within this monthly newsletter have been formed over more than 30 years of experience with the Hosta genus. We are constantly learning and refining that knowledge and would welcome any suggestions that readers of this newsletter would like to make so please [contact us](#).

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Generally, new cultivars need to be produced more quickly than can be achieved through root division.

If a breeder introduces a new variety he will only have a short window within which the plant will be considered 'new', and able to command a premium price, so time is of the essence.

However, not all hosta varieties are suitable for tissue culture production and sometimes this method can produce plants that revert (lose their unique characteristics) or do not have the longevity of stronger, root-divided, plants.

Specials

If a customer is looking for a specific variety in our collection we are happy to split a parent plant, if it will not compromise the growth of that plant.

Specials are generally priced at a higher level as they are taken directly from the collection and originator stock.

This way you can be assured of the plant's eventual characteristics.

Discounting

We do not stipulate a discount rate as we prefer to do this on an individual basis, depending upon the number and type of plants purchased.

We operate discounts from our nursery and at shows. With mail orders we offer free P&P on orders of 10 plants or more rather than discount.