



H. 'Fragrant Bouquet'

This month we feature one of the most popular fragrant flowered varieties, which was introduced 30 years ago. We also share some images of weather-related damage suffered at the nursery this spring, just in case you have suffered similar problems...

The American Hosta Growers 'Hosta of the Year' 1982

H. 'Fragrant Bouquet' was registered as a cross between h. 'Fascination' and h. 'Summer Fragrance', in 1982 by grower Paul Aden.

The mature clump, used for registration, was grown by Paul in his garden in Baldwin, Long Island, New York. Click on the map to find out a few facts about the climate of the state.

H. 'Fragrant Bouquet' is an excellent grower and reliably produces large, very pale

lavender, fragrant, flowers from late July through into September, at our nursery. It is a large cultivar, which produces plenty of leaves and has quite a bushy habit - great for containers, but equally happy in the ground.



form of h. 'Elegans' and an unknown hosta to produce h. 'Prairie Moon', which doesn't have fragrant flowers.

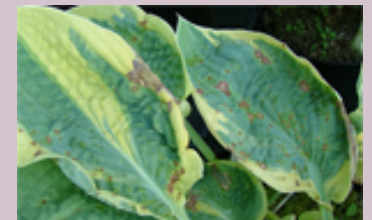
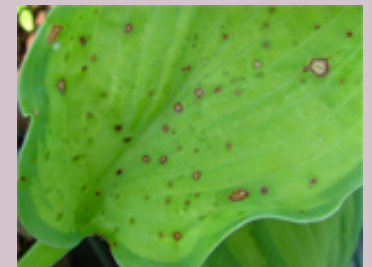


Note: The map omits Lake Ontario, which lies along the northern boundary of the state, and forms part of the border with Canada.

Weather-related damage

We have had several queries from customers about damage their hostas have suffered this spring. We thought we would share some images of the types of damage we have seen at the nursery, just in case you are concerned about your own plants.

The first four images show cell damage, which looks like rust. This can affect large areas of the leaves, or be just localised as spots. Click on the images to view:



H. 'Fragrant Bouquet' has produced a selection of sports, but has had a limited role to play in breeding because it is less fertile than other cultivars. Having said that it was used by Paul to produce the very first American Hosta Growers 'Hosta of the Year', in 1996, h. 'So Sweet'. Paul used h. 'Fragrant Candelabra' as a breeding partner to produce h. 'Abba Showtime' and h. 'Sweetie', whilst Hans Hansen used a streaked

form of h. 'Elegans' and an unknown hosta to produce h. 'Prairie Moon', which

We have three of the most notable sports from *h.* 'Fragrant Bouquet' in our collection:

h. 'Miss Saigon', *h.* 'Fragrant Dream' and *h.* 'Guacamole'.

Out of the three, the most unusual is *h.* 'Guacamole' (opposite) as it emerges plain leaved, developing a paler centre with darker margins as the season progresses.

It is another excellent grower, which improves with maturity, and has produced some very notable sports:



American Hosta Growers
'Hosta of the Year' 2002.



H. 'Avocado'

Registered in 1998



H. 'Fried Green
Tomatoes'

Registered in 1995



H. 'Holy Mole'

Registered in 2003



H. 'Fried Bananas'

Registered in 1994



H. 'Stained Glass'

Registered in 1993



H. 'Paradise Sunshine'

Not registered



Fragrant roots...

All fragrant cultivars can be traced back to *h. plantaginea*, as the only fragrant species yet discovered.

In the case of *h.* 'Fragrant Bouquet' this lineage works back through its pollen parent: *h.* 'Summer Fragrance', which in turn was a hybrid of a breeder's choice plant with *h. plantaginea* as the pollen parent. We have a large range of fragrant varieties for sale - **see our list** or visit the nursery.



This leaf shows puckering due to frost damage to the leaf before it unfurls:



Poor old *h.* 'Niagara Falls' and *h.* 'War Paint' look very sorry for themselves:



Although it looks unsightly, it is easily remedied by stripping away the worse of the damaged leaves. This action prevents the plant from wasting valuable energy and encourages the production of fresh growth.

Next month: Catch up with developments at the nursery

The advice and opinions contained within this monthly newsletter have been formed over more than 35 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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