

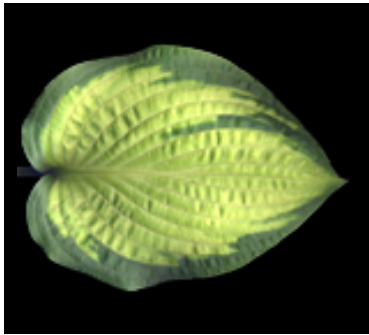


WOW!

We cannot believe this is the 60th issue of our little newsletter - where has the time gone?

This month we begin a new series profiling individual hosta species and cultivars, kicking off with *h.* 'Paul's Glory'.

Hosta 'Paul's Glory'



Registered vital statistics

Clump size: 17" high x 26" wide

Scape: 24" tall, inflorescence leaves

Flower: lavender during June-July, in Ohio

Leaf: 6" long x 5" wide, yellow leaf centre with blue-green margins. Leaf centre turns white to whitish green (albescens) with margins that vary in width and can extend to the midrib.

Vein Pairs: 10

Biography

Registered by P. Ruh & P. Hofer in 1987 as a sport of *h.* 'Perry's True Blue'.

Doubt has been cast upon this selection of parentage, with some specialists contesting that it is more likely to be a hybrid of *h.* *sieboldiana* and *h.* 'Fortunei', especially since *h.* 'Perry's True Blue' is a selection of *h.* *sieboldiana*. Certainly, *h.* 'Paul's Glory' exhibits the rugosity of the registered parent, as it matures, and looks more textured than either *h.* *sieboldiana* or *h.* 'Fortunei'. However, the shape of the leaves does point more towards *h.* *sieboldiana* 'Elegans' than *h.* 'Perry's True Blue'. If plain blue leaves appear as a reversion, simply remove them with as much root as possible and grow the plant on as *h.* 'Wheaton Blue', as registered by Q&Z Nursery after the town of Wheaton, Ohio.

Origins

Ohio lies in a temperate but generally humid zone sitting astride the 40°N latitude line - click on the image to view. Winters are cold and summers mild, it is warmest in the south of the state. Extremes of temperature and climate can occur but are rare. The proximity of the Great Lakes helps maintain a more temperate climate than might be expected of an area in the centre of a continent. More than half of the annual rainfall occurs during the growing season, from May to October.



Characteristics

H. 'Paul's Glory' is a medio-variegated cultivar, meaning the variegation is carried through the centre of the leaf, rather than at the margins. The leaves emerge with quite subtle colouring, which intensifies as the season progresses. Grown in more light, the leaf centres tend to turn whiter. Grow it in shadier conditions to keep the gold colour longer. It is a vigorous cultivar, easily achieving the registered dimensions within 3-4 years. Looking at various photographs of mature, ground-grown specimens, it appears many do indeed grow to the registered size.

Hosta 'Paul's Glory'

This cultivar became a benchmark for our collection, not least of all because it was the most expensive addition. This cultivar is reliable, grows well and just gets better and better as it matures. It is still Robin's favourite hosta despite all the wonderful new cultivars that appear every year to tempt us.

Next generation

H. 'Paul's Glory' has produced a few notable cultivars over recent years. Perhaps the most popular is *h.* 'Orange

Marmalade':



This cultivar shares the same pattern of medio-variegation. However, the leaf centres turn orange-gold in the spring before becoming whiter as the season progresses. The contrast between the orange-gold leaf centres and blue-green margins is striking. Nothing else comes close - yet! As with its parent, this cultivar just gets better as it matures.



H. 'Paul's Glory' looking glorious in our Gardeners' World display at the NEC in 2011

Every year *h. 'Paul's Glory'* goes out on the road with us to at least one show. It never fails to inspire with its dramatic colouration and beautifully textured leaves. Voted 'Hosta of the Year' in 1999 by the American Hosta Growers Association, it is a cultivar we highly recommend as a 'must have plant' for any garden, and it is still one of our biggest sellers.

Growing the cultivar in the UK

H. 'Paul's Glory' holds the distinction of being the most expensive cultivar we have ever added to our collection. We imported it from Peter Ruh in 1999 and it has been container grown since. Despite the restriction of a container, we have found the plant grows larger than the registered dimensions for us. Currently our specimens are in excess of 25" in height! We are keen to see how the plant grows in the garden, because it may be this cultivar grows better with its root growth restricted. The UK lies more than 10° further north than Ohio. Being a very small island we experience a more changeable climate, and benefit from the warming effect of the Gulf Stream. These environmental differences might explain why we find *h. 'Paul's Glory'* flourishes beyond the dimensions registered as typical.

Getting your hands on *h. 'Paul's Glory'*

Apologies for the heading, but it is an interesting fact to note that this cultivar did take a while to successfully be reproduced through tissue culture, which is why many people consider it a relative new-comer to the market. We understand the main reason for this was difficulty evaluating the best medium in which to grow the cells into plantlets, prior to being transferred to a soil medium. The early development of the cells requires a specific mix of chemicals to encourage the correct characteristics.

Micro-propagation is a fascinating subject, but the inherent costs of bringing varieties of any plant to market via this method, mean a certain cost has to be passed onto the end customer. The grower takes the risk of failures and reversions, which can happen to any variegated plant. Happily we have not witnessed too much reversion in *h. 'Paul's Glory'* produced this way, but we buy root divisions to augment our stock. These cost us more, but they are better established plants and far more reliable.

Next month: We look forward to 2012 and some of the highlights to come...

H. 'Paradise Glory' is another sport of *h. 'Paul's Glory'* - below:



This cultivar has wider margins, which are bluer in the younger plant, newly emerging leaves, and in the spring.

This introduction from Marco Fransen looks almost exactly like

h. 'Lakeside Shore

Master', a registered cultivar from Mary Chastain - below:



Mary registered her introduction with unknown parentage but we suspect it to be *h. 'Paul's Glory'*.

H. 'St. Paul' is a sport of *h. 'Paul's Glory'* and looks very similar to both:



Strangely, we have found this cultivar to be a slower, less reliable grower!

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**.

Subscribe > | Unsubscribe > | Archive >