



The *Hosta* 'Fortunei' family

This month we look at the range of varieties linked to *H.* 'Fortunei', focusing on those we hold in our collection. This issue only features the first generation of plants directly attribute to *H.* 'Fortunei', later newsletters will pick up on specific second generation varieties...

Garden stalwarts

The main reason for featuring the *H.* 'Fortunei' branch of the genus was to help readers identify some of the older varieties they may have in their gardens, whether purchased many years ago, or inherited through house moves.

We hold many of the varieties listed as *H.* 'Fortunei' types and sports, in our collection - see list in side column. Some of those varieties have been re-named or re-assigned due to further research into their origins.

This has created a little confusion over the years because there are some very well-established named varieties that are so similar to each other.

We suspect this has given rise to the comment we hear from older generation gardeners that "all hostas are the same". This may have been an appropriate comment to make around 30 years ago, before micropropagation methods, and increasing interest from breeders, gave rise to the explosion in new cultivars. It certainly cannot be considered an accurate assessment of the genus today.

Two particular offspring of *H.* 'Fortunei' have been responsible for numerous lookalikes. *H.* 'Fortunei Aureomarginata', with its yellow margins and *H.*

'Fortunei Albomarginata' with its white margins. *Hosta* 'Wayne' is the revised name for *H.* 'Fortunei Hyacinthina Variegated', and has margins that are more green than yellow, so it hasn't been included in the yellow-margined varieties listed below. The two sections below show the similarities and also feature some second generation varieties:

Cultivars which look like *H.* 'Fortunei Aureomarginata'



H. 'Cleopatra'



H. 'Fischer's Cream Edge'



H. 'Hadspen Rainbow'



H. 'Ellerbroek'



H. 'Green Gold'



H. 'Viette's Yellow Edge'
Sport of *H.* 'Fortunei
Stenantha'

First generation cultivars

The following list are all the varieties we hold in our collection, directly related to *H.* 'Fortunei':

- H.* 'Antioch'
- H.* 'Aoki'
- H.* 'Aoki Variegated'
- H.* 'Blaugold'
- H.* 'Carol'
- H.* 'Cleopatra'
- H.* 'Fisher's Cream Edge'
- H.* 'Fortunei Albomarginata'
- H.* 'Fortunei Albopicta'
- H.* 'Fortunei Aurea'
- H.* 'Fortunei Aureomarginata'
- H.* 'Fortunei Gigantea'
- H.* 'Fortunei Hyacinthina'
- H.* 'Fortunei Obscura'
- H.* 'Fortunei Rugosa'
- H.* 'Fortunei Stenantha'
- H.* 'Gloriosa'
- H.* 'Goldpfeil'
- H.* 'Goldsmith'
- H.* 'Green Gold'
- H.* 'Iona'
- H.* 'Janet'
- H.* 'Klopping Variegated'
- H.* 'Marion Bachman'
- H.* 'Moerheim'

Cultivars which look like *H. 'Fortunei Albomarginata'*



H. 'Academy Redundant'
Sport of *H. 'Fortunei Aureomarginata'*



H. 'Francee'
Possible sport of *H. 'Fortunei Obscura'*



H. 'North Hills'
Sport of *H. 'Fortunei Albomarginata'*



H. 'Antioch'



H. 'Iona'



H. 'Rhapsody'
Sport of *H. 'Fortunei Stenantha'*



H. 'Carol'



H. 'Julia'
Sport of *H. 'Fortunei Hyacinthina'*



H. 'Shogun'



H. 'Chameleon'
Possible hybrid between *H. 'Fortunei Aurea'* x *H. 'Fortunei Albomarginata'*



H. 'Klopping Variegated'



H. 'Snow Crust'



H. 'Crowned Imperial'
Sport of *H. 'Fortunei Hyacinthina'*



H. 'Moerheim'



H. 'Spinners'



H. 'Zager's White Edge'

H. 'Myland'

H. 'Nancy Lindsay'

H. 'Phyllis Campbell'

H. 'Royal Flush'

H. 'Sharmon'

H. 'Shogun'

H. 'Snow Crust'

H. 'Spinners'

H. 'Wayne'

H. 'White Christmas'

H. 'Zager's White Edge'

We will look at some of the second generation cultivars during 2014.

Threat to plant diversity

The EU has recently announced plans to rationalise 12 directives into a single piece of legislation. Underpinning this move would be a central register of all plants. Only those with a full, filed, description would be legally available for sale.

This currently costs hundreds of pounds per plant, which is why only those mass produced will be registered. This will severely limit diversity and effectively destroy the specialist plant industry, not just in the UK.

We all need to act to stop this legislation being passed - if you would like to know more the following articles are a good place to start:

- Plant Heritage**
- Horticulture Week**
- The Telegraph**
- Daily Mail**

Next month: Looking forward to the 2014 season, earlier than usual...

The advice and opinions contained within this monthly newsletter have been formed over more than 38 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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