



H. 'Krossa Regal'

This month we feature the very stately cultivar, *h.* 'Krossa Regal', investigating its origins and impact on the genus. We also highlight the Virtual Flower Show website, and how you can find out what your favourite nurseries are up to when they are not at the Flower Shows...

A Japanese cultivar

H. 'Krossa Regal' was collected by Gus Krossa on a visit to Japan in the 1960s.

In Japan it is called 'Ginba Giboshi', the silver-leaved hosta, and can be found growing in gardens in the northern part of the island of Honshu - see map.

Originally referred to as Krossa A-3, the plant was eventually registered as *h.* 'Krossa Regal' in 1980 as a hybrid of

h. nigrescens. Questions have been raised about the parentage of *h.* 'Krossa Regal' being solely a hybrid of *h. nigrescens* or whether it is more likely to be a hybrid of *h. rectifolia* x *h. nigrescens* or *h. rectifolia* x *h.* 'Tokudama'.

It certainly has a very similar habit to that of *h. nigrescens* and carries its leaves high and upright, just

tilting backwards, showing off the silver undersides to the leaves. This makes it a brilliant plant for the background of a border, especially in dark areas where the intense colour appears to 'glow'.



We have found the bloom fades somewhat during the season, but usually only if exposed to more light, which turns the leaves shiny, dark green. If our parent plants stay in the shade house, and don't go out to the shows, the blue bloom lasts much longer. Planting in deeper shade should give the same effect.

We don't often take *h.* 'Krossa Regal' to the shows as it is a bit temperamental for exhibiting. It is easy to mark the leaves during transportation, removing the bloom, and occasionally the petioles droop as if it has been starved of water.



The always open show...



The Horticultural Exhibitors Association (HEA) has launched the **Virtual Flower Show** website.

Now, regardless of the time of year, you can keep up with your favourite nurseries and garden sundries exhibitors, check out the show calendar and get all kinds of garden and growing advice.

Click on the image below to see the homepage:



Growing climate

The mature specimen clump, measured for registration, was located in the state of Michigan. It measured 36" tall by x 36" wide at the time of registration and the plant must have been at least 10 years old. We have found our pot-based parent plants grow to a similar size so we are confident the cultivar will grow to the expected dimensions, whether pot or ground grown, elsewhere in the UK.



Our climate is not dissimilar to that of Michigan, which is a temperate state. It has a widely varied climate, depending upon which part of the state you are in - click on the map to see how the state sits between the three largest of the Great Lakes.

Second generation

There have been some striking cultivars introduced from *h.* 'Krossa Regal' over the years. Perhaps the most familiar sport of *h.* 'Krossa Regal' is *h.* '**Regal Splendor**', registered in 1980. This cultivar has creamy yellow margins, which streak into the blue leaf centres in varying shades of cream. It shares the same habit as the parent and produces many leaves, on elongated petioles. This makes it a popular cultivar for floral artists.



H. '**Tom Schmid**' is another popular sport, registered in 1995. This cultivar has narrow, bright white margins on smoky grey-green leaves, which streak all the way to the midrib in varying shades of grey - see photo. This cultivar has an upright habit but the leaves tilt back more, showing off their variegation.

H. '**Gay Search**' is a sport, registered in 2004, which has chartreuse margins. The variegation is so subtle it cannot be seen at a distance.

H. '**Kelly**', looks like a more rugose version of *h.* *nigrescens*, holding its grey-green leaves in a very similar way. We have had this cultivar in our collection for many years but it was only registered in 2009. This sport gives more weight to the argument that *h.* 'Krossa Regal' has *h.* 'Tokudama' in its parentage *H.* 'Kelly' has rugose leaves, less height and is a slower-growing plant.

Last year we introduced another sport to our collection, *h.* '**Regal Supreme**'. Registered in 2008, this cultivar has much wider creamy-white margins to the leaves but so far has proved a little temperamental to grow.

H. '**Regalia**' is possibly our favourite sport of *h.* 'Krossa Regal'. Registered in 1992, it shares the vase-like upright habit of the parent and the intensity of colour. The leaves emerge with pale green centres and blue-green margins, the pale green deepens as the season progresses, making the variegation more subtle. The margins develop beautiful ruffling when the plant matures - very attractive.

Next month: [Lutescence and albescence in hostas](#)

...and yes, we are on the website too - click on our homepage:



The website is under development and has been designed as a tool for HEA members. It will contain much more content as members get to grips with the facility.

It will give you access to organisations, which do not currently have a web presence, and should be particularly useful if you are trying to find a business you saw at a flower show, but didn't catch their details...

Newsflash

Our nursery will be open all season:

1st April - 30th
September
10am - 5pm

We won't be doubling up at any shows this year, so why not - **visit the nursery in 2012**

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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