

Niagara College Greenhouse & Nursery Success Sheet No. 64

Hosta 'Regal Splendor'

General Description

This hosta blooms in summer with spikes of lavender to white, lily-like flowers, which can be quite showy. Some newer plants may have 50-75 blooms on each flower scape. All fragrant hosta flowers are hybridized from *Hosta plantaginea*, which has 6-inch-long, beautiful, white fragrant flowers.

The frosty blue leaves with a creamy yellow edge are a welcome addition to any garden. With good reason, 'Regal Splendor' was chosen as Hosta of the Year in 2003. The plant will eventually reach a height of 80 cm and a spread of 90 cm.

Soil Preparation

Hosta 'Regal Splendor' will grow best in rich organic soil. A loamy soil type may not need the addition of organic matter, but few of us are so lucky as to garden in ideal soil and will need to add organic amendments. The recommended soil is well drained and is enriched with both nutrients and organic matter.

The ideal pH range for the 'Regal Splendor' is 6.5-7.5, which is slightly acidic to slightly alkaline. In higher-pH soils, the addition of organic matter such as Canadian peat moss and cottonseed meal will tend to lower the pH.

Planting

Remove the plant from its container and loosen and untangle the roots. Occasionally, the plant may be root bound in the container; if so, tap the sides to loosen the roots from the

pot. If the roots are difficult to loosen, it may be necessary to cut through some of them, making several vertical cuts in the root ball. Shake excess soil from the roots, and do not use it in the planting hole. Place the plant in the hole at the same level as it grew in the container. The area where the leaves and roots meet should be at ground level.

Water

Water is important for optimal growth. A minimum of an inch of water each week is recommended and can come from rain, irrigation, or hand watering. Any 'Regal Splendor' hostas that are grown in sandy soil may need even more water because of the increased drainage provided by the sandy conditions. Occasionally, a plant will show symptoms of inadequate water. Leaf tips will show burning. This occurs because the leaf tips are located the farthest from the roots and the tip is showing stress from inadequate amounts of water. Drooping leaves may also be caused by inadequate moisture.

Light

'Regal Splendor' is considered a shade-tolerant plant but does not thrive if grown in deep shade. It will grow best in an exposure with morning sun and afternoon shade. If grown in full afternoon sun, 'Regal Splendor' will show signs of marginal burning on leaves in the summer months.

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