

Niagara College Greenhouse & Nursery Success Sheet No. 133

Hosta 'June'

Description

Hosta 'June' is an herbaceous perennial from England. This medium-sized, low-maintenance hosta cultivar spreads to approximately 2 feet and grows to a height of about 1 foot.

The elliptical leaves have irregular blue margins with creamy centers that gradually change into dark chartreuse. The unique foliage is grown predominantly because it provides colour, contrast and texture to the landscape.

Bell-shaped, fragrant, pale-lavender flowers on 20-inch scapes bloom from July to August and attract hummingbirds. Any dead foliage from the fall dormancy can be removed before mid spring.

Snail problems may exist, but otherwise this is a wonderful disease- and pest-free perennial.

Light

The 'June' hosta is an outdoor plant that grows well in partially to fully shaded areas. Mature trees or shadows cast by a building provide ideal growing locations for this plant. Morning sun will enhance the colouration, but too much sun will scorch the leaves.

Bright gold or creamy-white leaves with a blue-green margin develop after a couple of hours of direct sun. A more subdued chartreuse and blue develop in more shade.

Temperature

This plant is very hardy and grows well in zones 2 to 9. In cooler climates, the

variegation stays consistent; in warmer climates or during a hot summer, the variegation fades. Hosta 'June' is one of the last hostas to be affected by frost.

Reproduction

Hosta 'June' reproduces by seeds. A mature plant produces many seed pods and many viable seeds. The resulting plant from the seed will not be faded in colour but will have the exact colour of the mother plant. If you do not want to wait for a seed to grow, the plant can be divided in the spring or fall and transplanted.

Soil

The plant does best in a well-aerated, moist, acidic soil with high amounts of organic matter. 'June' is widely adaptable to sandy or clay soil and neutral or alkaline soil, but the variegation may not be as vibrant.

Uses

In the garden, this hosta can be mixed with other perennials in a border or woodland garden, grown as a groundcover or used in edging plantings. Hosta 'June' is also good for cut flowers or as a specimen plant.

With its unusual leaves, beautiful flowers, hardy nature and low maintenance, it is easy to see why this plant was named 2001 Hosta of the Year by the American Hosta Growers Association.

Stephanie Kerr, Class of 2008

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