

Hosta

Hosta sp. 'Undulata Variegata'

Popular common names for hostas are Plantain Lily and Funkia. Hostas are a mainstay of shade gardens. They are easily grown in evenly moist, organically rich, well-drained soils. They often produce flowers but are grown mainly for the excellence of their foliage. They prefer climates with cold winters and warm summers. In zones 9 and 10 picking the right hosta can be a daunting task. Hostas have a winter dormancy requirement with a minimum number of hours at temperatures below 45 degrees F. The number of chill-hours required is variety dependent. While all hostas will emerge the following spring after a low-chill hour winter, they are usually quite weak and proceed to deteriorate during the subsequent season. The variety 'Variegata' may not do well in northwest Florida. **The leaves are toxic to dogs, cats and horses.** Symptoms include vomiting and diarrhea.

Type: perennial

USDA hardiness zones: 3 through 8

Uses: border; mass planting; container or above-ground planter; naturalizing; accent; shade garden; woodland garden

Origin: not native to Florida

Height: 1 to 2 feet **Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

Plant spacing: 24 to 36 inches

Light requirement: shade to part shade

Soil tolerances: acid to alkaline; clay; sand; loam

Drought tolerance: low - soil should never be allowed to dry out

Soil salt tolerances: moderate

Invasive potential: low

Pest resistance: susceptible to chewing pests and diseases

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Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden