

Hosta of the Year 2007: 'Paradigm'



Hosta 'Paradigm'

Their choice for 2007 is 'Paradigm.'

Hosta are among the most popular of perennials for shady areas, with hundreds of varieties now readily available. Plants form a sturdy mound of foliage, topped with airy blooms. Each year the American Hosta Growers Association selects its Hosta of the Year to recognize hosta plants that are good garden plants in all regions of the country, are widely available, and retail for no more than \$15.00 in the year of selection. Since 1996 they have chosen great varieties that have exceptionally decorative foliage, showy or fragrant flowers, and perform well throughout USDA hardiness zones 3-9.



A clump of Hosta 'Paradigm'

This variety, a sport of 'Abiqua Recluse' released by Walden West in 1999, was formerly known as 'Abiqua Paradigm.' It is one of the best gold-centered hostas with nice substance and texture. The beautiful, corrugated chartreuse to gold leaves have wide, irregular, dark blue-green margins. The variegation and contrast intensifies as the season progresses.

Each leaf is roughly heart-shaped with a glossy finish. In mid-summer nearly white to pale lavender flowers are produced on 2 foot tall scapes.



Gold and green leaves of Hosta 'Paradigm'

Because of its parentage ('Abiqua Recluse' is a cross between 'White Vision' and 'Sum and Substance'), Paradigm produces large leaves and eventually grows into a fairly large clump. The heavy, textured leaves hold up well in summer heat and are not prone to slug damage. The plants grow about 1½ feet high and can spread as wide as 3½-4 feet. This vigorous cultivar is a relatively fast grower in both cool and warm climates.

This variety is good as a specimen or mixed in bold groups. It makes a good foundation planting for shady spots and works well in containers when young.

– Susan Mahr, University of Wisconsin

Additional Information:

- American Hosta Society – aims to promote, encourage, and foster the development, improvement, and enjoyment of the genus *Hosta* with information for everyone from beginners to long-time hostaphiles. At www.hosta.org/
- The Hosta Library – a reference library, with photos, discussion forums, and lots of links related to the genus at www.hostalibrary.org/
- The Hosta Network – offers 150 hosta varieties through Bishop's Farms, but also has links to numerous societies, books and more. At www.hosta.net/
- The Hosta Forum on Garden Web – offers an opportunity to connect with other hosta lovers at forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hosta/
- Ten Top Hostas – by Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Professor, University of Vermont at pss.uvm.edu/ppp/articles/tentop.html