



Hosta of the Year 2009: 'Earth Angel'

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. Their choice for 2009 is 'Earth Angel'.



A young plant of hosta 'Earth Angel'.

This wonderful variegated blue hosta is a white-edged sport of Hosta 'Blue Angel' that was introduced in 2002 by Hans Hansen of Shady Oaks Nursery. This is an excellent grower and makes a large, showy plant once mature. The slow-growing clumps get over 3 feet across and about 3 feet tall. It makes a great specimen plant for a shady spot.



Cream and blue leaves of Hosta 'Earth Angel'.

The thick, heart-shaped leaves are wide with a pointed end. Each blue-gray leaf has an irregular border of creamy yellow in spring that changes to creamy white by summer. In mid-summer pale lavender flowers are produced on scapes up to 30" long.



'Earth Angel' coming into bloom.

Because of the thick leaves and slightly upright habit, it is slug resistant, has few disease problems and is not bothered by rabbits.

– Susan Mahr, *University of Wisconsin - Madison*

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/
- Presenting...H. 'Blue Mouse Ears' 2000 at naturesreign.com/bluemouseears.html
- 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