FOR THE SHADE GARDENER, it is difficult to find a more useful and adaptable plant than hosta. Providing endless combinations of colors, textures, and sizes, the range of different hosta cultivars available can satisfy any gardener. Hostas can grow from mere inches to several feet and can come in any combination of blue, green, yellow, and white foliage with smooth to puckered leaves. They provide a unique form in the garden with their mound-shaped base of basal leaves and can be used to contrast fine textured, upright plants in the garden. Hostas can serve as a focal point or can blend together disparate textures and colors with their broad, coarse-textured foliage. Not only do hostas grow excellently in the shade, they are practically pest and disease free, although gardeners may struggle with deer browse and slug damage. The below list contains several new and many tried-and-true hosta cultivars, most of which boast prestigious awards from the Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit (RHS AGM), the American Hosta Growers’ Association Hosta of the Year Award (AHGA HY), or the American Hosta Society Benedict Garden Performance Award (AHS BGPA).

### Hosta

**‘Abiqua Drinking Gourd’**
- **Height**: 2 ft
- **Spread**: 3 ft
- **Soil**: Moist
- **Light**: Sun to part shade

**‘Dream Weaver’**
- **Height**: 2.75 ft
- **Spread**: 3 ft
- **Soil**: Moist
- **Light**: Sun to part shade

**‘First Frost’**
- **Height**: 1 ft
- **Spread**: 1.5 ft
- **Soil**: Moist
- **Light**: Sun to part shade

**‘Fire Island’**
- **Height**: 1 ft
- **Spread**: 1 ft
- **Soil**: Moist
- **Light**: Sun to part shade

**‘Hans’**
- **Height**: 1.75 ft
- **Spread**: 1 ft
- **Soil**: Moist
- **Light**: Sun to part shade

**‘Hadspen Blue’**
- **Height**: 2.5 ft
- **Spread**: 3 ft
- **Soil**: Moist
- **Light**: Sun to part shade

**‘Island Breeze’**
- **Height**: 1 ft
- **Spread**: 1 ft
- **Soil**: Moist
- **Light**: Sun to part shade

**‘Komodo Dragon’**
- **Height**: 2.75 ft
- **Spread**: 3 ft
- **Soil**: Moist
- **Light**: Sun to part shade

**‘Munchkin Fire’**
- **Height**: 2.5 ft
- **Spread**: 3 ft
- **Soil**: Moist
- **Light**: Sun to part shade

**‘Rainforest Sunrise’**
- **Height**: 1 ft
- **Spread**: 1 ft
- **Soil**: Moist
- **Light**: Sun to part shade

**‘Rainbow’s End’**
- **Height**: 1.25 ft
- **Spread**: 1 ft
- **Soil**: Moist
- **Light**: Sun to part shade

**‘Sun Mouse’**
- **Height**: 0.5 ft
- **Spread**: 0.5 ft
- **Soil**: Moist
- **Light**: Sun to part shade

**‘Sunrise’**
- **Height**: 1 ft
- **Spread**: 1 ft
- **Soil**: Moist
- **Light**: Sun to part shade

**‘Wolverine’**
- **Height**: 1.5 ft
- **Spread**: 1.5 ft
- **Soil**: Moist
- **Light**: Sun to part shade

**‘Wolverine’**
- **Height**: 1.5 ft
- **Spread**: 1.5 ft
- **Soil**: Moist
- **Light**: Sun to part shade

**‘Wolverine’**
- **Height**: 1.5 ft
- **Spread**: 1.5 ft
- **Soil**: Moist
- **Light**: Sun to part shade

**‘Zapponti’**
- **Height**: 2 ft
- **Spread**: 2 ft
- **Soil**: Moist
- **Light**: Sun to part shade

All Hosta images courtesy of Walters Gardens.