



Georgia Hosta Notes

A Publication of The Georgia Hosta Society
2026 Special Show Edition

The Georgia Hosta Society

Proudly Presents

Fifty Shades of Green

2026 Hosta Show and Plant Sale

Saturday, May 9, 2026

(Show Set-up: Friday, May 8 1:00 PM)

**Oak Grove United Methodist Church Gymnasium
1722 Oak Grove Road, Decatur, Georgia 30033**

Hosta Show 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Free and Open to the Public

Plant Sale 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Including many Hostas and Other Interesting Plants

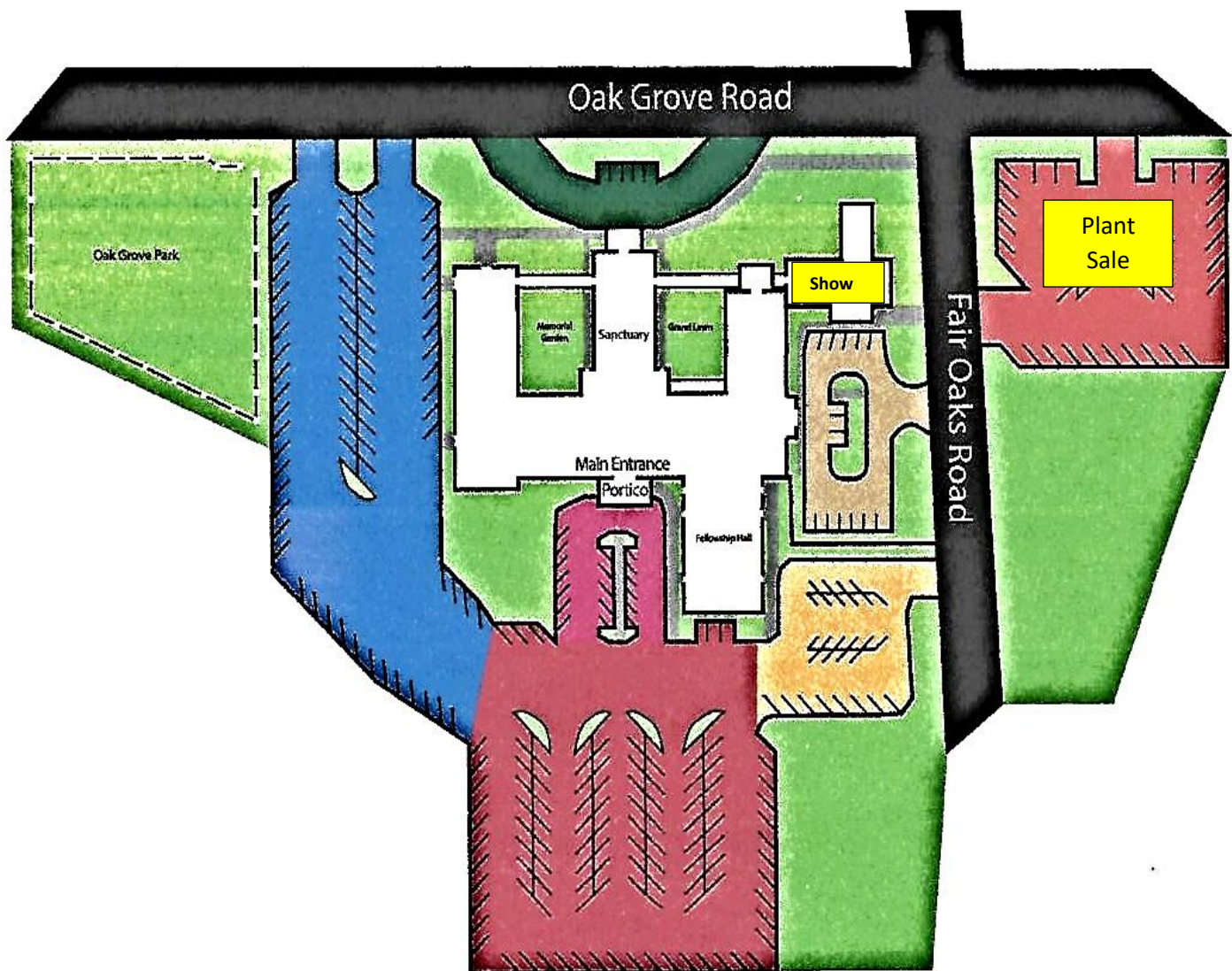
Please see our website, www.gahosta.org, and visit us on Facebook.

This Hosta Show is accredited by the American Hosta Society.

Location information:

**Oak Grove United Methodist Church gymnasium
1722 Oak Grove Road, Decatur, Georgia 30033**

Oak Grove United Methodist Church is located at the intersection of Oak Grove Road and Fair Oaks Road inside of the I-285 perimeter. Oak Grove Road pulls right off of Lavista Road. There will be ample parking spaces available.



**For more information
please see our website www.gahosta.org
or visit Georgia Hosta Society on Facebook.**

It's Show Time

Yes, it is indeed show time again and we hope to see all of you at The Georgia Hosta Society's annual Hosta Show and Plant Sale on Saturday, May 9. Along with this Special Show Edition of *Georgia Hosta Notes*, we are also transmitting a copy of this year's show schedule and a copy of the Individual Tally Sheet that you will need for recording the entries you bring to the show.

Show activities actually begin on Friday, May 8, the day before the show. That is when we set up for the show. We will begin set-up at 1:00 pm and will need to be ready to accept entries by 2:00 pm. We need all hands on-board to make that happen. If you can help with moving the show and plant sale materials from our storage unit to the show location by providing trucks or by just being there to help, please contact Show Co-chairs Sandra Bussell (404 636-5920) or Mark Malaguerra (404 808-2866,)

We will be accepting entries for the show from 2:00 pm until 6:00 pm on Friday. Most of our members find it more convenient to bring their entries on Friday, and receiving most entries on Friday makes it much easier for the show committee to get all entries into place prior to judging starting at 10:00 am on Saturday. However, if you can't bring your entries on Friday, **we will also be accepting entries Saturday morning from 7:30 am to 9:00 am.** Any entries received after that time will have to be placed in the non-competitive exhibit area, so be sure to get your entries in early.

Saturday morning will be a busy time also. There will be a Judges Clinic III starting at 9:00 am. If you are a judge, you will want to attend this refresher course to learn what is new with judging. Along with people assigned to help you with your entries, there will be people on hand to check the classification of each hosta entry. We will also need people to help with placement of the entries in their proper places on the tables. When judging starts, we will need clerks to assist judges. This is a favorite job of many people because you get to hear what the judges take into consideration in judging entries and you learn a lot about how a show is conducted. If you want to be a clerk, please contact this year's Clerks Chair, Sandra Bussell at 404 636-5920 to offer your services.

Show awards will be presented to the winners upon conclusion of judging. Based on past shows, this should be around 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm.

While the show is going on inside the gymnasium, the Plant Sale will be in progress outside in the parking lot. Plant Sale Chair Greg Ferguson has lined up another stellar group of vendors for the plant sale, ensuring once again that we will have a huge number of quality plants and garden-related items available for us to purchase. You will not want to miss out on any of those special plants that you want, so shop early and shop often! Plant sales start at 8:30 am this year and end at 2:00 pm.

At about 2:00 pm, it will all come to an end. At that time, we will need all hands on-board again in order to quickly take down the show and get our show materials back to the storage unit. It will have been a busy two days and we will all be tired. However, we will also have that sense of accomplishment that comes with another show brought to a successful conclusion.

We hope you will be able to be a part of GHS's annual Hosta Show and Plant Sale. We promise you will have a great time. The basic purpose of a hosta show is to educate the public about hostas, and this is the perfect opportunity for us to promote them. We can expect many non-hosta-growing visitors to attend our show. Certainly, we want to impress them. To do that, we hope every member can enter at least a few leaves or more. The more entries we have, the better the show. The better the show, the more the public will learn about our favorite plant.

Schedule Changes for This Year's Show

This year, we will be piloting a new show schedule for the American Hosta Society. If all goes well, this schedule will become standard for all AHS shows in 2027. Below is a comparison of the old standard show schedule compared to the new proposed standard show schedule to be used in this show. All changes are contained in Divisions I-III. There are no changes to Division IV – Educational Exhibits and Divisions V – Non-competitive Exhibits

Present Standard Show Schedule

DIVISION I – HORTICULTURE (Cut-leaf)

- Section I – Giant-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species
- Section II – Large-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species
- Section III – Medium-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species
- Section IV – Small-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species
- Section V – Miniature-Leaved Registered Cultivars and Species
- Section VI – Giant-Leaved Unregistered Seedlings and Sports
- Section VII – Large-Leaved Unregistered Seedlings and Sports
- Section VIII – Medium-Leaved Unregistered Seedlings and Sports
- Section IX – Small-Leaved Unregistered Seedlings and Sports
- Section X – Miniature-Leaved Unregistered Seedlings and Sports
- Section XI – Youth Exhibits of Registered Cultivars and Species
Displayed in Alphabetical Order
- Section XII – Unregistered Named Hosta Cultivars
Displayed in Alphabetical Order

Entries in Sections I-X are to be displayed using the following Color Classes:

- Class 1 – Green (All Shades)
- Class 2 – Blue (All Shades)
- Class 3 – Yellow (All Shades)
- Class 4 – White Margined
 - a. Yellow, White, or Chartreuse Center
 - b. Green to Blue Center
- Class 5 – Yellow Margined
 - a. Yellow, White, or Chartreuse Center
 - b. Green to Blue Center
- Class 6 – Green or Blue Margined
 - a. Yellow, White, or Chartreuse Center
 - b. Green to Blue Center (distinct from margin color)
- Class 7 – Streaked or Mottled
- Class 8 – Others (including early season variants)

DIVISION II – CONTAINER GROWN HOSTAS

DIVISION III – TROUGH/CONTAINER GARDENS ARRANGED FOR EFFECT

Proposed Standard Show Schedule

DIVISION I – Registered Cut Leaf Entries

- Section I – Giant Leaf Registered Cultivars and Species
- Section II – Large Leaf Registered Cultivars and Species
- Section III – Medium-Large Leaf Registered Cultivars and Species
- Section IV – Medium Leaf Registered Cultivars and Species
- Section V – Medium-Small Leaf Registered Cultivars and Species
- Section VI – Small Leaf Registered Cultivars and Species
- Section VII – Petite Leaf Registered Cultivars and Species
- Section VIII – Youth Exhibits of Registered Cultivars and Species
Displayed in Alphabetical Order

Entries in Division I, Sections I through VII are to be displayed using the following Color Classes:

- Class 1 – Green (All Shades)
- Class 2 – Blue (All Shades)
- Class 3 – Yellow (All Shades)
- Class 4 – Lighter Margin, Darker Center
- Class 5 – Darker Margin, Lighter Center
- Class 6 – Variable Colorations

DIVISION II – Unregistered Cut Leaf Entries

- Section I – Unregistered Seedlings and Sports
- Section II – Unregistered Named Hosta Cultivars
Displayed in Alphabetical Order

DIVISION III – Hosta Plants in Containers

- Section I – Container Grown Individual Hostas
- Section II – Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect

Please take note of the changes in the Division line-up as well as the revised size sections and color classes in **Division I**. Division 1 now includes only **registered named cultivars and species cut-leaf entries** listed in the Hosta Show Classification List. A **PILOT SHOW CLASSIFICATION LIST** has been prepared for use in this trial show. It can be found on our GHS website, www.gahosta.org, and paper copies will be available in the leaf preparation area at the show. **USE ONLY THIS CLASSIFICATION LIST FOR THIS SHOW FOR SECTION, CLASS, AND WIDTH/LENGTH INFORMATION REQUIRED ON YOUR ENTRY TAGS.** Do not use the classification list posted on the AHS website. If you are unsure of what you need to show on your entry tag, just leave it blank in those spaces. There will be preparation assistants on hand at the show to help you.

The new **Division II** now groups all the **unregistered cut-leaf entries** into this division. This includes all **Seedlings and Unregistered Sports entries** which go into **Section I** and all **Unregistered Named Cultivars** which go into **Section II**.

The new **Division III** now groups all hosta plants into this division. Container-Grown Individual Hosta plants are now exhibited in **Section I** of this division and **Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect** go into **Section II**.

More detailed information of all the changes in the show schedule can be found in the article “Big Changes Coming for the Hosta Show Schedule” article in the January 2026 issue of *Georgia Hosta Notes*.

Need Entry Tags?

If you need entry tags and you would like to have them prior to the show, please contact Harold McDonell (haroldmcdonell@aol.com, 770 317-7841) and he will mail them to you. Tags will be available at our meeting on April 4th as well. It is usually much easier for you to prepare your tags ahead of time than at the show when everything is so hectic. Of course, entry tags will be available at the show and during set-up time on Friday.

Selecting Leaves for the Show

Before you begin selecting your leaves for the show, go to the Point Scales for Judging section of the show schedule and note what attributes the judges will be looking for when they judge a particular exhibit. For more information about each of the attributes, go to the AHS Judges Handbook which you can access at the AHS website, www.americanhostasociety.org. After accessing the home page, click on the Events and Awards button at the top of the page and click on Hosta Judging on the drop-down tab. Scroll down to the Judges Handbook and go to Section III – Judging. Each attribute is defined in detail in Section III-E-2. You might also find pictures of your cultivar on the Hosta Library website, www.hostalibrary.org, and on the Hosta Treasury website, www.hostaregistrar.org.

In selecting your leaves, look for the most mature leaves on the clump with the truest color and most even pattern. **You should try to choose the best typical leaf, not the one that might be the most interesting.** This is especially true with variegated leaves. In most cases, that means looking for the most even (symmetrical) pattern you can find.

At the same time, look for leaves with the least amount of imperfections such as holes, tears, sun scald, or insect damage. You also need to watch out for any color disparities caused when one part of a leaf gets significantly less or more light than other parts of the leaf as the result of being partially shaded out by other leaves. It may be subtle but you can see the difference in color between the two portions of the leaf. The judges will see it, too, and deduct points for it. Be sure to look on the front AND back of the leaves. Judges always look at the back sides of entries as well as the front.

Finally, look for any surface dirt on the leaves. Many of the smoothly textured varieties have leaves that are easily cleaned but some of the heavily puckered leaves and all of the blue leaves can be very difficult to clean without damaging the leaf surface. You should pass on leaves that are so dirty as to be difficult to groom.

Cutting and Grooming Leaves

Leaves are best cut early in the morning or late in the afternoon. Evaluate your leaves as best you can a few days prior to the show and tentatively select the ones you would like to bring to the show. Leaves may be cut several days prior to the show but the later you cut them, the fresher they will be. The petiole (leaf stem) should be cut as long as possible. You can remove excess length later during preparation of the exhibit for the show. A sharp knife should be used to make a clean cut. After cutting, hold the leaf up to the light to further inspect for major holes, damage or other large flaws that you may have missed. If significant flaws are found, you may want to select another leaf.

After cutting the leaves, place them in cool water in a cool place out of strong sunlight and drafts. This will help to keep your leaves fresh for the show.

Specimen cleanliness is the first attribute that a judge observes. Take care to properly clean leaves of all exhibits prior to entering them in the show. An entry should have no dirt or other debris, insects, or insect webs anywhere on the leaf surface or on the petiole. Pay particular attention to the point where the leaf meets the petiole where trash often becomes lodged. Again, don't forget to check the back sides of the leaves. That is a particularly popular place for spiders to leave webs.

Carefully wash the leaf in cool water but do not scrub. A very mild dish detergent may be used to help dislodge dirt from the leaf surfaces. Often on smooth-surfaced leaves, you only have to gently swish the leaf in the water and the dirt falls off. On leaves with quilted surfaces, you may have to use a moistened Q-Tip, small soft artist's paint brush, or a cotton ball to remove dirt from the valleys and creases. Be very gentle and careful not to damage the leaf surface in any way. Be sure to rinse leaves if detergents are used to clean them.

Blue leaves are especially hard to clean and prepare for show because the delicate glaucous coating on the leaves is easily damaged. Be very careful when cleaning those blue leaves. On blue leaves with very rough surfaces, it is almost impossible to remove all the dirt without causing damage. The judges would prefer a little dirt over damaged surfaces in this particular case. They know how difficult blues are to clean and they take that into account.

Preparing Entry Tags and Classifying Your Hosta Leaves Correctly

Once you have your leaves selected and groomed, it is time to prepare the entry tags. **When you prepare your tags, please remember to add your name, address, and other required information on both the TOP AND BOTTOM portions of the entry tags.** A sample show tag is illustrated on page 8. You may use name/address labels in lieu of writing your name and address on both portions of the tag. The bottom portion is removed after the leaf is judged and is used by the tabulator to record show results. That is why it is so important to fully complete both top **and** bottom portions of the tag. While you may wait to prepare your entry tags until you are in the prep area at the show, you will find it is best to do this step **before** you come to the show.

You will note in the schedule that hosta leaves entered in Division I (Registered Named Hosta Cultivars and Species) must be classified by both **section** (size) and **class** (color and pattern). This information is placed on the entry tag when you enter your hostas in a show. Many people feel intimidated in trying to determine just which section and class their hosta leaves belong in. However, it is easy.

The Hosta Show Classification List provides the correct classification data for all **named and registered** hosta cultivars and species. **For this year's show, a special 2026 Pilot Show Classification List has been prepared for this show and is available on the GHS website, www.gahosta.org.** The list provides not only the show section and class for all registered named hosta cultivars and species, it also provides the registered leaf length and width data for each.

For this year's show, use only the 2026 Pilot Show Classification List on the GHS website, not the one on the American Hosta Society's website.

The length/width information is now required information on the entry tags. This information helps the judges in their evaluation of leaves and it can also help you to determine if your leaf is mature size-wise. Remember, though, that hosta leaves usually grow a little smaller down here in the South than in the northern areas of the country where most hostas are registered. Use the registered sizes to *help* you choose the best leaf, but do not simply dismiss a leaf because it might be a bit undersized.

If you do not find your named hosta on the classification list, that hosta is not registered. In that case, you would exhibit it in Division II, Section II – Unregistered Named Hosta Cultivars. Copies of the Classification List will be available in the show prep area but you will save a lot of time and some anxiety by looking up your hosta entries' data and filling out the show tags prior to coming to the show.

Once you have your tags filled out, go ahead and prepare an **Individual Tally Sheet** showing the division and cultivar name for each of your entries. (See last two pages for a copy.) You will turn this in at the show after you have entered your leaves. The Tabulation Chair would love to have the entries **listed in alphabetical order** although that is not a requirement. It just makes the job easier. You may also prepare this ahead of time using the attached copy.

Preparing Leaves for Entry in the Show

When you arrive at the exhibit preparation area, first sign the Exhibitor Registration Form and **secure an exhibitor number**. This number should be placed in the appropriate place on each entry tag. There are different sized containers available. Select the container that makes your leaf look its best (no tiny leaf in a big container, etc.). Stage your leaf in the container, cutting the petiole to an appropriate height that makes the leaf look its best. Use cotton balls to position the leaf at the best viewing angle in the vase. Then attach the entry tag to the container using rubber bands provided if the tags you have require rubber bands. The newer tags have a cut-out and do not require rubber bands. You may have either or both types.

At the show, there will be members to help guide you through the entry and final grooming activities should you need assistance. Supplies, such as cotton balls to stage leaves in the containers and cotton swabs to remove any debris from the leaves, will be available in the preparation area. Once you have an exhibit ready, just take it to the classification table where other members will be on hand to check your entry's tag data for accuracy before placing it in the show. Do not fold up the bottom section of the tag at this time. The Classification Committee will do that after the entry's data is checked. After you have prepared and submitted all your entries, check your Individual Tally Sheet one more time to be sure all your entries are shown on it. If you prepared it ahead of time and then decided not to enter a particular leaf, just line through it on the sheet. Be sure to add your Exhibitor Number on the sheet. Then turn it in to Exhibitor Assistance Chair.

Enter in Divisions III, IV, and V

If you have some nice container grown hostas or container gardens, you should consider bringing one or more of them to enter in Division III, Section I - Container Grown Hostas, or Division III, Section II - Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect. The rules are spelled out clearly for each of these sections in Rule #12 of the show schedule. Be sure to remove dirt and debris that may be on the containers prior to entering them. Be especially careful to clean the underside of the containers so that they do not soil the table cloths.

You might also consider preparing an educational exhibit about hostas in Division IV – Educational Displays. These exhibits may contain posters, plants, photos, or anything you deem necessary to support the theme of your exhibit. Educational Exhibits are always popular with our members and are especially popular with visitors. See Rule 13.

If you have something hosta-related that you want to share with everyone but which does not fit into any of the other divisions outlined in the show schedule, you may put it in Division V – Non-Competitive Exhibits. This would be a perfect place to display a leaf of a prized seedling or unregistered sport that you only have one leaf to share (two leaves required for seedlings and sports in Division II). Or maybe you have a beautiful leaf of a hosta whose name has been lost. Just place it in the non-competitive exhibits with a "What's My Name?" note on the tag. Someone might be able to identify its name for you. You might have a leaf with an unusual characteristic not normal for that particular hosta that you want to share with members.

Have Fun!

We look forward to seeing all of you at the show. Please come, bring a few leaves, bring a friend if you can, volunteer to help in one of the many activities, and above all – Have Fun!

2026 GHS Plant Sale

The following nurseries will be vendors at the **May 9, 2026 GHS Plant Sale**. They will be selling exciting hostas as well as other plants on show day from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Don't miss this great opportunity to score some great plants. Come to the Hosta Show and Plant Sale on May 10th.



Pine Forest Gardens specializes in hostas. They grow hundreds of hosta varieties, ranging from miniatures to giants, including dark green, light green, blue, cream, and yellow hostas. Location: 556 Ellison Road, Tyrone, Ga. 30290. Open weekends and by appointment. Website: www.pineforestgardens.com Facebook: Pine Forest Gardens. Contact Richard Jolly at pineforest1@hotmail.com or call (770) 487-5036 or (770) 365-7030.



Bentley Gardens is a perennial nursery specializing in hostas and daylilies. Bentley Gardens sells hosta liners and more, with nationwide shipping. Location: 1900 Peeksville Road, Locust Grove, Ga. 30248. Website: www.bentleygardens.com . Facebook: Bentley Gardens. Contact Ed Thaubald at bentleygardens@aol.com or call (678) 779-9709.

Silvers Elbert Nursery

Silvers Elbert Nursery specializes in hostas and native azaleas. Silvers Elbert Nursery has been in business for over 30 years and is responsible for introducing many new hosta varieties. Website: www.hostashadeplants.com. Facebook: Silvers Elbert Nursery. Contact: Natalie Silvers at (770) 722-2009 or at nat6984@yahoo.com .

All our vendors have a strong internet and social media presence. Beyond the Georgia Hosta Society Plant Sale, contact our vendors through Facebook, their websites, email, and their phone numbers. Especially during the busy seasons, contact our vendors first to confirm their locations and available times, before visiting.

Sample Show Tag



THE AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

DIV I SECTION VI CLASS 5
 REG LENGTH 6 WIDTH 3.5
 VARIETY H. 'June'

NAME MARY SMITH
 ADDRESS 100 HOSTA LANE
 CITY/STATE ATLANTA, GA.

Member of AHS

1st 0 Award	2nd 0 Award	3rd 0 Award	4th 0 Award	Spec 0 Award
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1st 0 Award	2nd 0 Award	3rd 0 Award	4th 0 Award	Spec 0 Award
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EXHIBITOR NO. 3
 DIV I SECTION VI CLASS 5
 VARIETY H. 'June'
 NAME MARY SMITH
 ADDRESS ATLANTA, GA.

Classification data for registered cultivars can be found in the AHS **Pilot Show Classification List**. The list provides the correct classification data for all **named and registered** hosta cultivars. This list is available on the Georgia Hosta Society website, www.gahosta.org. Only Registered named cultivars and species are included in the classification list and are exhibited in Division I. All non-registered hosta cut-leaf entries are placed in Division I - Section 2. **Use only the Pilot Show Classification list for the 2026 show, not the standard list on the AHS website.**

Place name and address here. Using pre-printed address labels is acceptable and can save time in preparing show tags. Check box if you are a member of AHS.

Tag bottom folds up here to hide name of exhibitor during judging.

Sign the Exhibitor Registration Form located in the entry preparation area at the show and place assigned exhibitor number here.

Repeat classification data here.

Repeat Name and address here.

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Individual Tally Sheet – Page 1 of 2

2027 Version

Record all of your entries placed in the show on these sheets - division and variety. If possible, record entries in alphabetical order by division. Place completed sheets in the tally sheet collection box in the preparation area. Use additional sheets if needed.

II-I-c.

AHS HOSTA SHOW

INDIVIDUAL TALLY SHEET

Name: _____ Exhibitor Number: _____ Date: _____

Division I - Registered Cut Leaf Entries • _____ Maximum allowed per Individual (if applicable)

	Div	Variety	1st Blue	2nd Red	3rd Yellow	4th White	BOC Green	BOS Purple	Special Award
1	I								
2	I								
3	I								
4	I								
5	I								
6	I								
7	I								
8	I								
9	I								
10	I								
11	I								
12	I								
13	I								
14	I								
15	I								
16	I								
17	I								
18	I								
19	I								
20	I								
21	I								
22	I								
23	I								
24	I								
25	I								

Please list cultivars alphabetically if possible

TOTALS

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Special Awards: Circle those that apply	
Best of Show (Division I)	Best Seedling/Sport (Division II, Section I)
Best Container Grown (Division III, Section I)	Best Container/Trough (Division III, Section II)
Best Educational Display (Division IV)	Sweepstakes Award (most Blues in Division I)

