

Midwest Regional Hosta Society 2026 Convention Hosta Show



Madison, WI

July 9 – 11, 2026

Madison Marriott South Hotel
706 John Nolen Drive
Madison, WI 53713

Thursday, Friday & Saturday July 9th – 11th

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|---|----------------------------------|
| Thursday, July 9 th – 10am-4pm | Hosta Leaf Show Entries Received |
| Friday, July 10 th – 8-11am | Hosta Leaf Show Entries Received |
| Friday, July 10 th – 12-3pm | Hosta Leaf Show Judging |
| Friday, July 10 th – 3-5pm | Hosta Leaf Show Open |
| Saturday, July 11 th – 9am-4pm | Hosta Leaf Show Open |

An accredited American Hosta Society Show

General Show Rules

1. Anyone who wishes to exhibit may do so. However, section and higher awards are limited to AHS members. Any exhibitor who is not an AHS member and wins a section or higher award will be asked to become an AHS member. If the winner refuses membership the Show Chair may either present the award to the next qualified entry or leave the award vacant.
2. Entries will be received Thursday, July 9th 10am-4pm and Friday, July 10th 8-11am. All entries must remain in place until the show closes at 4pm Saturday, July 11th. All entries must be removed by 5pm Saturday July 11th and any remaining entries after that time will be disposed of by the Staging Committee unless other arrangements have been made with the Show Chair.
3. Entry tags must be properly completed by the exhibitor. Incorrect entry tag information will be corrected by the Classification Committee and/or disqualified at their discretion.
4. During the time of judging only the Show Chair, Co-Chair, AHS Judges Chair, Classification Chair, Clerks Chair, Judges and Clerks are permitted in the immediate judging area.
5. **Divisions I – Horticulture, II Container Grown Hosta, III – Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect and IV – Educational Displays** will be judged by panels of three to four AHS show judges which includes at least one Master Judge per panel. The AHS Point Scoring System will be used to break a tie in judging major awards. Each panel of judges will be the final authority of each class it judges.
6. **Division VI – Artistic Design**
Hosta leaves must be the predominant foliage in the design. Hosta blooms are permitted. An exhibitor may enter one entry per class. Plant material need not be grown by the exhibitor, but the design work must be the work of the exhibitor. No artificial, silk or painted material is permitted.
The Artistic Design committee reserves the right to move an entry to improve spacing if the exhibitor is unavailable to do so.
Pre-registration is required for exhibition in this division. Each class is limited to four entries. Please contact the Design chair, Cindy Tomashek, prestonplants@aol.com, 507-250-531. Judging TBA.
7. **All decisions of the judges are final in all Divisions.**
8. Care will be taken but no responsibility shall be incurred by any person, group or organization for any accidents, damages, injuries, thefts, omissions or commissions of any kind or nature from this show.
9. All entries designated as registered cultivars, and species shall either be listed in the current year's AHS Hosta Show Classification List or shall have had registration data recorded in an official publication of The American Hosta Society by the date of the show to be considered registered for show purposes.

10. For **Division I**, provided entries score the minimum points, each sub-class is allowed the awarding of only one blue, one red, one yellow and one white ribbon. In **Division I**, **Sections I-V** and **Section XI**, each exhibit or group of exhibits of a registered cultivar or species constitutes a separate name sub-class. Each seedling or sport entry in **Sections VI-X** is a separate sub-class and is eligible for the ribbon it earns. For **Section XII**, each unregistered named cultivar constitutes a separate name sub-class, displayed alphabetically. For **Divisions II, III** and **IV**, each entry is eligible to receive the ribbon it deserves based on the point score it earns.

11. Division I – Horticulture (Cut Leaf) Rules

Containers will be provided by the hosta show. Bloom scapes are not permitted in this Division.

Section I – V Registered Cultivars and Species require **ONE** leaf per entry.

Sections VI – X Unregistered Sports and Seedlings require **TWO** leaves per entry.

Sports shall be indicated on the entry tag as Sport of, “Name of Cultivar”.

Seedlings shall be indicated on the entry tag as Seedling, “Hybridizer’s Identification Number”. **Section XI** – Youth Exhibits require **ONE** leaf per entry.

Section XII – Unregistered Named Cultivars require **ONE** leaf per entry.

An exhibitor may enter more than one horticultural specimen in a single class provided each entry is of a different variety. **Multiple entries by an exhibitor of the same cultivar are not permitted. A maximum of 25 entries per household is allowed in Division I.**

12. Division II – Container Grown Hosta

Entries must be grown by the exhibitor and must be established in the containers in which they are grown. **Only registered cultivars or hosta species may be exhibited in this division and only one mature hosta plant, which may consist of multiple divisions of that single plant, may be grown in each container.** The container must be clean but otherwise has no bearing on overall judging of the entry. The plant should be centered in the container. Inner containers or container liners are allowed but must not be visible. Only one type of ground cover material is allowed per exhibit. Ground covers may be any natural non-living material such as bark chips or stones, or an indigenous moss of one variety only.

13. Division III – Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect Rules

Self-contained trough or container gardens of any size may be entered as arrangements for judging. Multiple varieties of hosta and other plant material may be used. Hosta must be a strong focal point of the entry. No artificial plant material is permitted.

Accessories are allowed. Individual plants need not be identified but if the exhibitor would like to identify the material an identification card may be placed at the side of the exhibit.

14. Division IV – Educational Displays Rules

Educational displays must pertain to hosta.

15. Division V – Non-Competitive Exhibits Rules

Entries in this division are not judged. The exhibit may be a single cut leaf, a hosta bloom scape, a container grown plant or any other display deemed to be of interest to the show observers. However, the plant material must be predominantly hosta, tastefully presented and be in good condition. The show chair may refuse placement of any exhibit that does not meet these requirements.

16. Division VI – Artistic Design Rules

Class I - 50 and Fabulous

Design should incorporate one or more hostas with party-themed names and elements of a birthday party.

Overall dimensions not to exceed 24”H x 18”W.

Class II - Dancing Queen

Top of the charts in 1976 was the disco-era hit “Dancing Queen”. Incorporate its namesake Hosta to create a bohemian, disco-era inspired design on a mirror base.

Overall dimensions not to exceed 20”H x 15”W.

Class III - Golden Glamour

Elegant design featuring mini-small gold and/or yellow and white hostas with chic accessories in gold, white and black.

Overall dimensions not to exceed 12”H X 12”W.

Class VI - Written in the Stars

The first Star Wars movie debuted in 1976. Design should incorporate hostas with names that fit the Star Wars series (Galaxy, Enterprise, Captain Kirk, Vulcan, etc.) but is not limited to those. Incorporate elements to evoke outer space.

Overall dimensions not to exceed 24”h X 18”W.

Show Divisions

Division I – Horticulture (Cut Leaf)

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|--------------|---|
| 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 Sports and Seedlings |
| Section VII | Medium-Leaved Unregistered Sports and Seedlings |
| Section VII | Small-Leaved Unregistered Sports and Seedlings |
| Section VIII | Miniature-Leaved Unregistered Sports and Seedlings |
| Section IX | Small-Leaved Unregistered Sports and Seedlings |
| Section X | Miniature-Leaved Unregistered Sports and Seedlings |
| Section XI | Youth Exhibits of Registered Cultivars and Seedlings 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)
- Class 7 – Streaked or Mottled
- Class 8 – Others (including early season variants)

Division II – Container Grown Hosta

Division III – Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect

Division IV – Educational Displays

Division V - Non-Competitive Exhibits

Division VI – Artistic Design

Pre-registration is required for exhibition in this division. Contact the Design Chair for additional class definitions and requirements and exhibition instructions.

The American Hosta Society Point Scales for Judging Hosta Show Exhibits

Division I, Section I – V, Registered Cultivars and Species and Section XI, Youth

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Form and Size | 30 |
| Color and Pattern | 30 |
| Texture and Substance | 20 |
| Conditioning and Grooming | 20 |
| Total Points | 100 |

Division I, Sections VI – X, Unregistered Sports and Seedlings

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Distinction | 40 |
| Form and Size | 15 |
| Color and Pattern | 15 |
| Texture and Substance | 15 |
| Condition and Grooming | 15 |
| Total Points | 100 |

Division I, Section XII, Unregistered Named Hosta Cultivars

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Form and Size | 30 |
| Color and Pattern | 30 |
| Texture and Substance | 20 |
| Condition and Grooming | 20 |
| Total Points | 100 |

Division II, Container Grown Hosta

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Form and Size | 25 |
| Color and Pattern | 25 |
| Texture and Substance | 25 |
| Condition and Grooming | 25 |
| Total Points | 100 |

Division III, Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Variety | 20 |
| Condition | 30 |
| Arrangement | 30 |
| Container Relative to Arrangement | 20 |
| Total Points | 100 |

Division IV, Educational Displays

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Educational Value | |
| Theme, Originality, Effectiveness | 60 |
| Staging | |
| Arrangement, Attractiveness, | |
| Materials Used in Exhibit | 40 |
| Total Points | 100 |

Division IV, Artistic Design

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Conformance | 14 |
| Design | 48 |
| Selection of Components | 8 |
| Organization of Components | 8 |
| Expression | 8 |
| Distinction | 14 |
| Total Points | 100 |

Show Awards

Best of Show – Awarded to the best species or registered cultivar entry in **Division I – Horticulture** and is selected from the section winners in **Sections I-V** and **Sections XI**. Please note, **Section XII – Unregistered Named Cultivars** are **NOT** eligible to receive this award.

Best Seedling or Sport Award – Awarded to the best seedling or sport entry in **Division I – Horticulture** and is selected from the section winners in **Sections VI – X**.

Best Artistic Design Award – Awarded to the best entry in **Division VI – Artistic Design**.

Sweepstakes Award – Awarded to the exhibitor who wins the largest number of blue ribbons in **Division – I Horticulture**. In case of a tie, count red ribbons and then yellow ribbons, if necessary, to break the tie.

Grand Awards – Awarded to the best entries in **Division II – Container Grown Hosta, Division III – Trough/Container Gardens Arranged for Effect, Division IV – Educational Displays**. To win, entries must have scored at least 95 points.

Section Awards – Awarded to the Best of Section winners in divisions containing sections. All section winners must have scored at least 95 points.

Class Awards – Awarded to Best of Class winners in divisions containing classes. All class award winners must have scored at least 95 points.

The following ribbons are awarded in accordance with rules set forth by AHS:

First Place Blue Ribbons Entries must score at least 90 points to receive this award.

Second Place Red Ribbons Entries must score at least 85 points to receive this award.

Third Place Yellow Ribbons Entries must score at least 80 points to receive this award.

Fourth Place White Ribbons Entries must score at least 75 points to receive this award.

Show Committee

Show Chair/ Co-Chair – Cindy Tomashek & Mary Ann Metz

Schedule Chair – Mary Ann Metz

Registration/Exhibitor Assistance Chair – Sally Stewart

Classification Chair – Holly & Jim O'Donnell, Marilyn Ruff

Placement Chair – Jeanette Kohlbeck

Judges Chair – Gary Garles

Clerks Chair – Jeanette Kohlbeck

Tabulation Chair – Kathy Rustad, Mona Keehn

Artistic Chair – Cindy Tomashek

Awards Chair – TBA

Staging and Dismantling Chair - TBA