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Here are the Classic Blues favorites of ROHS members and online hosta friends from across the country and around the world.
Mike Groothius, Niles, MI:

"I like H. 'Blue Hawaii' for its upright habit and intensity of the blue. I like H. 'Fragrant Blue' for its neat form and terrific seedlings (even though it's finnicky). Lastly, I like H. 'Halcyon' for its long-lasting blue and excellent growth."

Bert Stankowski, Germany:

H. Blue Mouse Ears – "beauty flowers"; H. 'Blue Arrow' – "nice clump"; H. 'Blue Angel' – "giant plant".

Marlys Anderson, Pella, IA:

"H. 'Blue Mammoth' has become a favorite XLG. It's gorgeous but it was a long time getting there. Slow growing, but so well worth the wait. H. 'Halcyon' is a picture of perfection and has the loveliest powder blue color all year long. It's a hard-to-beat classic hosta. And H. 'Blue Wedgwood' (Tardiana TF 2 x 9) has been my favorite blue hosta in my garden for a long time now. I love the color and the form of the plant and it grows well. If H. 'Elegans' is considered blue, it's always my favorite, but I think it's green more than blue or is blue/green. I love H. 'Elegans' as it grows so easily, blooms beautifully, has perfect round corrugated leaves, and it gets huge. It is a must-have in any hosta garden IMHO."

Ed Thaubauld, Locust Grove, GA:

"For our Zone 8, I like best of all H. 'Blue Angel'. It does so well here. H. 'Blue Mouse Ears' is another heat-tolerant hosta. It seems I have to base this on our weather here. H. 'Blue Hawaii' is very nice in spring, but it does peter out in summer and loses its color."

Alexandra Gallagher, Bucks County, PA:

"H. 'Fragrant Blue' - the most amazing pale blue and, well, the flowers smell good too! H. 'Queen of the Seas' - blue and rippy, need I say more? H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'...cause it's cute!"

Michael Stegemiller, Worthington, OH:

"I would have to go with H. 'Silver Bay', H. 'Blue Angel' - solid performer, and I would put H. 'Love Pat' up there for a nice blue too. The cupping is eye catching to me."

Linda Port, Morrison, IL:

"H. 'Skylight': hard to beat that brilliant, nearly indescribable blue in the early summer. (It's) moving up to the larger end of a medium-sized hosta and much larger than I expected. H. 'Silver Bay': more of that eye-popping bright blue with great corrugation and substance that can stand up to pretty much anything the weather can throw at it, and nearly white flowers to top it off. H. 'Halcyon': the standard that I seem to measure all blues by. The first blue hosta in my garden, and one I would not be without. And can I give an honorable mention to H. 'Love Pat'? A sentimental favorite, but a darn good cupped and corrugated blue plant as well. A mature one will always make me look."



H. 'Halcyon' in the garden of Marlys Anderson.

IlikeSeedlings/Carol O, SW WA:

"I just bought H. 'Blue Moon' this summer and everything about it I like: color, size, shape, it set pods and it's still very blue."

Eve Vanden Broek, Pella, IA:

"H. 'Halcyon' is always beautiful, H. 'Blue Mouse Ears', and H. 'Topaz' looks so nice by the corner of my house."

Trudy Van Wyk, Pella, IA:

"H. 'Skylight'...stays a soft blue most of the season, and Bev is a sweetie too! H. 'Neptune'...even though it is new to me this year, I like the seedlings that hosta seed growers are showing from their crosses! H. 'Sea Blue Monster'... nice soft blue with tons of corrugation. Mature plant is stunning! Rick Goodenough has used it as a pollen parent, and it has given a lot of blue genes to the seedlings."



Tardiana,
H. 'Camelot',
and H. 'Ebb Tide'
(upper right) in
the Van Wyk
garden .

Pia Thy, Nyborg, Denmark:

"H. 'Deep Blue Sea'.. Cupped, 'bumples', and a good grower. The color is very deep and intense... Then you need one with the soft powdery look, pointed and with interesting margins... H. 'Queen of the Seas' do not have elongated leaves, but it is darn lovely and have the light blue color. (But I'll choose) H. 'Blue Cascade', H. 'Her Eyes Were Blue', and the curly H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'."

Jeff White aka Blackhawkiboshi, Waterloo, IA:

"I have lots of blues here. In my garden, I will say: 1– H. 'Purple Verticulated Elf', 2 – H. 'Blue Dogwood', and 3 – H. 'Smoke Signals'. And H. 'Skylight' rocks my socks!"

Joan Altman, New Wilmington, PA:

"I love H. 'Deep Blue Sea', H. 'Fulda', and H. 'Powder Blue'. I think H. 'Fulda' is my best Klose Tardiana. I love the corrugation on H. 'Deep Blue

Sea' and it is highly distinctive. I love the size, color and shape of H. 'Deep Blue Sea'. I also like H. 'Linde' a lot, but it does not keep its color very long."

Joanna Kovalscik, Vassar, MI:

"H. 'Skylight'...a classy & beautiful blue hosta. Even the pods are blue. I cherish it! H. 'Prairie Sky'...such a dreamy, pale blue with heart-shaped leaves. H. 'Fragrant Blue'...with enough sun, it stays icy blue-green all season. Abundant scapes bear many fragrant flowers. Special also because it gave me my first fragrant seedlings. I know you didn't ask for 4, but H. 'Secret Love' is gorgeous. I don't own this hosta, but I saw it in Rick Goodenough's garden. Wow!"

Lori Widman, AHS Facebook:

"H. 'Deep Blue Sea' - it's got wow factor even though it isn't real big, H. 'Dorset Blue' - great for a smaller size blue and I just got H. 'Silver Bay' this year and it's already stunning."

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Sandra Parril, AHS Facebook:

"I love my H. 'Halcyon'. It looks great all season long. H. 'Blue Ice' is my new fav as a small blue. It held up through this year's heat and drought beautifully and is a beautiful blue color. H. 'Queen of the Seas' gets my vote as a big, gorgeous blue."

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Rich Horowitz, SE MA:

"H. 'Skylight', H. 'Azure Cherub', H. 'Theo's Blue', H. 'Silver Bay', and H. 'Babbling Brook'. Oh, I can't count – oops!!!!"

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Matt Bendig, Kiel, WI:

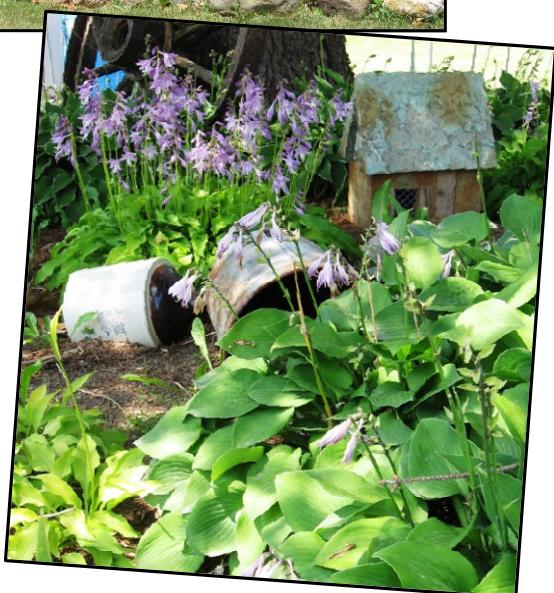
"H. 'Skylight', H. 'Titanium', H. 'Her Eyes Were Blue', and H. 'Theo's Blue."

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ROHS Garden Tour

Dave and Shirley Halverson

"Turkey Ridge Daylily and Hosta Gardens"



ROHS Auction



The excessively hot and humid day had little effect on ROHS members and guests when it came to the auction. We simply moved our chairs under the two available trees when the clouds disappeared and kept right on bidding.

Hostaholics are a special breed!

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Patrick Brown, Midlands, MI:

"H. 'Neptune' for reasons already stated by others. H. 'Little Boy' - a nice big blue that holds all season. H. 'Secret Ambition' - a tetraploid out of H. 'Secret Love' which is from H. 'Fragrant Blue'.

There are some others that I like better yet than these but they have not been introduced commercially yet. H. 'Cyclops', H. 'Sterling Frost', H. 'Troubled Waters', and H. 'Bluetonium'."

Kimberly Roose, Pella, IA:

"I'm not exactly a hosta expert, but my vote would be for Ht. 'Blue Mouse Ears'... It's just so doggone cute!"

Stephanie Essary Neal, Crown Point, IN:

"H. 'Skylight' takes #1 spot easily - great color and great plant! H. 'Queen of the Seas' and guess I'll say H. "Hadspen Blue'. Have a fabulous large blue seedling from Skaggs but guess it doesn't count." :)

Roger Kinchen, Windham, NH:

"H. 'BME' fits anywhere. Nice color, grows well, and adorable bell shaped flowers. H. 'Skylight' - one of the best blue colors great substance and will take some sun... 3rd one I need to think on some more. Sssooo many options. Also guessing you prefer ones readily available? OK - walked the garden and 2 jumped out at me. Sorry I already picked 2 and stick with them, but can't choose between these two for my 3rd vote H. 'Purple Verticulated Elf' and H. 'American Blue Hearts'. Both still have dark blue color and nice leaf shape. So sorry again, but there are my 4. :) And if you want the uncommon ones, I'll toss in H. 'Cosmic Blue' - offers nice seedlings, good substance and attractive overall. Also, Bev and Dave's H. 'Lamppost

Blue' - large upright, white backs. :) I'll stop now. :)

Ross Johnson, Wayzata, MN:

"Based on intensity and duration of the plant to hold the color I would say: #1- H. 'Powderpuff', #2- H. 'Purple Verticulated Elf', and #3- H. 'Silver Bay'."



H. 'Blue Mouse Ears' blooming in Bert Stankowski's garden
Photo Courtesy of Bert Stankowski

Jonathan Bardzik, Washington, DC:

"H. 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd' - the large, deeply cupped and puckered leaves are awesome. Nice growth habit too. I know H. 'Blue Angel' is common, but it should be! It's a stunning, high-performing large blue. H. 'Fragrant Blue' - I'm a sucker for the gardenia-like fragrance and the compact growth habit. BTW if variegation is allowed, I'm in love with Hosta 'June'. It's one of the most beautiful hostas ever bred, and I can't get enough of it."

Mark Hanner, Otisville, MI:

"Tough to narrow it down, but I'd go with these: H. 'Halcyon'- great vein texture, color through the year, form; H. 'Blue Vision'- nice larger plant, great color, and even here where it gets more sun than a blue should, stays a great blue into September (I'll get a photo today and send it along); H. 'Yankee Blue'- nice color, wonderful form/structure."

Jerry Bryant, MI:

"H. 'Cyclops' - the biggest leaves I have ever seen and still blue right now. H. 'Queen of Heaven' - ice blue, the most incredible color blue I have ever seen. The plant is a large clump with corrugated leaves. H. 'Sterling Frost' - very blue and passes the traits to the seedlings, still very blue now and a big plant. I have to add H. 'Little Boy' as well. Very nice large corrugated leaves, holds the color all season."



Charlie Seaver's H. 'Deep Blue Sea' at Mason Hollow Nursery

Don Dean, Ramsey, MN:

"This is like asking a frolicking mouse which three favorite offspring were sired in his life time! Let me break it down pre-90's: H. 'Blue Moon' (silvery blue, holding, size and round shape ... true one was tough to find, be careful), H. 'Salute' for form, H. 'Halcyon' (color, holding, consistency); 90's: H. 'Blue Jay', H. 'Purple Verticulated Elf' (intensity and

holding), H. 'Deep Blue Sea' (cup, pucker, early color wish it could be bred with!); 2000: H. 'Powder Puff' (color), H. 'Silver Bay' (color, pucker, holding, breeding, tough), H. 'Pewterware' (color odd aqua, smooth finish, breeding); 2010: H. 'Skylight' (bright), H. 'October Sky' (holding power, form), H. 'Deane's Dream' (vigor, some advance on red in petioles). Need to get H. 'Blue Hawaii' and H. 'Smoke Signals' to judge here locally. Do not overlook Olga, Bev, and Frank Nyikos' work ... those are the ones I buy, will buy, to compliment my own. Eric Smith and Herb Benedict laid the ground work!"

Robyn LeBuff, AHS Facebook:

"H. 'Kiwi Blue Baby' holds the blue well for me, and I have pictures of H. 'Halcyon' after an October frost and it was still blue!"

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Dennis Barnum, Western WA:

"H. 'Halcyon' because it's really blue and the blue lasts so long. H. 'Mr. Blue' -- I'm beginning to believe that it is even bluer than H. 'Halcyon'. H. 'Yankee Blue' -a nice, soft, long-lasting blue on great-looking leaves."

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Lela Squire, Battle Creek, MI:

"I would go with H. 'Krossa Regal'. Love the tall, elegant vase shape. And tall scapes. H. 'Queen of the Seas' for sure. Ruffles! And lastly for me, H. 'Silver Bowl'. Mine has grown to be huge. Slightly different leaf shape than the "standard" blues.

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Bruce Van Wyk, Pella, IA:

"H. 'Amethyst Chip' is one of my favorites. My first blue favorite was H. 'Halcyon'. That was when Trudy's addiction was just getting started."

"Don, I am late coming to the party, but my answer to Reldon's question about favorite blues is anything that comes out of your garden."

Rick Goodenough, SE MA:

"H. 'Neptune' is a stunning medium large looker with elongated leaves with very wavy edges and with white backs...a high drama plant for sure.

H. 'Blue Cascades' is another favorite because it stays blue for a long time and has a wonderful clump form with elongated arching leaves with super edges.

H. 'Sea Blue Monster' is a huge, quite upright clump that just demands attention. And the leaves are slightly elongated and slightly wavy and are slightly pointed...all improvements to my eye over H. *sieboldiana* 'Elegans'."

Thank You to everyone who took the time to respond to my questions. I asked for your three favorite blues, but limiting yourselves to only three was a difficult task for many of you. It would have been for me as well. I thoroughly enjoyed reading all of your responses. It's been both entertaining and inspiring.

Reldon Ramsey

P.S. Pia – thanks for the 'kick'.



Two Classic Favorite Blues –
H. 'Krossa Regal' (top) and H. *sieboldiana* 'Elegans' -
in the garden of Marlys Anderson

Harshbarger Hosta Club Tours Pella Gardens

Marlys Anderson & Ron Humeston



H. 'Brother Stefan' (upper right)
and H. 'Golden Meadows' (right)



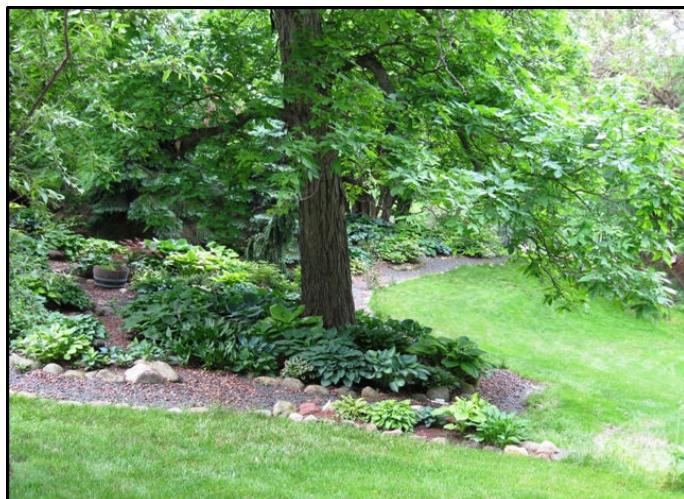
Harshbarger Hosta Club Tours Pella Gardens

Bruce & Trudy Van Wyk



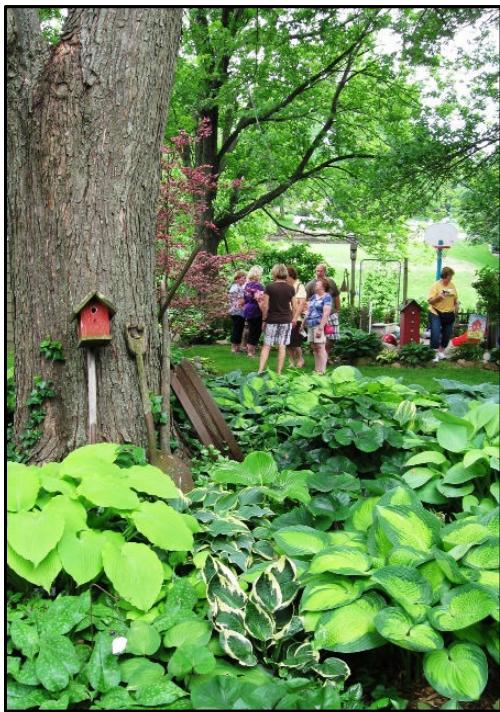
Harshbarger Hosta Club Tours Pella Gardens

David & Betsy Dettmann and Downtown Pella



Harshbarger Hosta Club Tours Pella Gardens

Connie Dingeman



H. 'Embroidery'



Harshbarger Hosta Club Tours Pella Gardens and More Flying Frog Farms



H. 'Stitch in Time' (upper left),
H. 'Deep Pockets' (above),
H. 'Dick Ward' & H. 'Veronica Lake' (below)



More Classic Blues



Three rare Mildred Seaver blues - in the Adams garden, H. 'Blue Plate Special' (above left with H. 'Halcyon' in background) and H. 'Doctor Bill-Bob' (left), and in the Lehtola garden, H. 'Humpbacked Whale' (above).

101 Great Plants for the Shade – Common Names / Botanical Names

- 1 Astilbe / miniature Astilbe / Giant Astilbe
- 2 Azalea bush / shrub
- 3 Barrenwort, Fairy Wings, Bishop's Hat, Horny Goat Weed / Epimedium
- 4 Bear's Breeches / Acanthus mollis
- 5 Bear's Breeches / Acanthus spinosissimus
- 6 Begonias * (many types & varieties available)
- 7 Bellwort, Merry Bells / Uvularia sessilifolia
- 8 Bigroot Geranium / Geranium macrorrhizum
- 9 Bleeding Heart, yellow 'Gold Heart' glows in the shade garden / Dicentra spectabilis
- 10 Blood Root, double Blood Root / Sanguinaria Canadensis
- 11 Blue-eyed grass / Sisyrinchium angustifolium
- 12 Boston Ivy / Parthenocissus tricuspidata
- 13 Bronze Fern, Autumn Fern / Dryopteris erythrosora 'Brilliance'
- 14 Bug Bane / Cimicifuga
- 15 Bugleweed / Ajuga / (many varieties available / will grow in sun)
- 16 Candy Lily / Pardancanda norissi
- 17 Carnesbill Geranium / Geranium maculatum
- 18 'Crimson Fans' Red-Leaved Mukdenia / Mukdenia rossii (ground cover tolerates dry shade)
- 19 Chirstmas Fern / Plystichum acrostichoides
- 20 Cinnamon Fern / Osmunda cinnamomea
- 21 Coleus * (hundreds of selections available)
- 22 Columbine / Aquilegia (freely self-seeds)
- 23 Coral Belle / Heuchera (miniature heuchera)
- 24 Cornus alternifolia / Pagoda Dogwood tree
- 25 Corydalis solida
- 26 Cyclamen, Hardy / Cyclamen hederifolium
- 27 Daffodils / Jonquils / miniature daffodils
- 28 Dogtooth Violet / Erythronium dens-canis
- 29 Dutchman's Breeches / Dicentra cucullaria
- 30 Euonymus fortunei 'Moon Shadow' / shrub, low growing variegated foliage, will climb
- 31 Fernleaf Bleeding Heart / Dicentra eximia
- 32 Foamflower / Tiarella (many selections available)
- 33 Foamy Bells / Heucherella (heuchera x tirarella)
- 34 Forget-me-not / Myosotis sylvatica
- 35 Ghost Fern / Athyrium Ghost
- 36 Glory of the Snow / Chionodoxa / bulb, very early bloomer, lovely blue flowers
- 37 Goatsbeard (3' tall) Aruncus dioicus 'Knefii')
- 38 Goatsbeard (dwarf 8-12" tall) / Aruncus aethusifolius
- 39 Goatsbeard (Giant 6' tall) / Aruncus dioicus
- 40 Hardy Orchid, Chinese ground orchid / Bletilla striata
- 41 Hosta (thousands to choose from, miniature to giant cultivars)
- 42 Hydrangea, climbing lace cap / Hydrangea anomala subspecies petiolaris
- 43 Hydrangea, shrub / 'Endless Summer' many cultivars, avoid rhizome spreading cultivars
- 44 Impatiens * (single & double blooming impatiens)
- 45 Jack-in-the pulpit / Arisaema triphyllum
- 46 Jacob's Ladder / Polemonium caeruleum (many varieties available)
- 47 Japanese Forest Grass / Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola'
- 48 Japanese maple trees / Acer palmatum
- 49 Japanese painted fern / Athyrium niponicum pictum (many varieties available)
- 50 Knotweed, Fleece Flower / Persicaria microcephala 'Red Dragon' (freely self-seeding)

- 51 Lady Fern / *Arthyrium filix-femina*
 52 Lady Fern 'Dre's Dagger' Victoria lady Fern / *Athyrium filix-femina* (my favorite)
 53 Lady's Mantle / miniature Lady's Mantel / *Alchemilla mollis*
 54 Lenten Rose / Hellebore / *Helleborus* (variegated foliage cultivars)
 55 Leopard Plant, Ragwort, Bigleaf Goldenray, Fainting Plant / *Ligularia*
 56 Lily of the Valley / variegated lily of the valley / *Convallaria majalis*
 57 Lilturf / *Liriope*
 58 Lobelia
 59 Lungwort / *Pulmonaria* (many selections available)
 60 Maidenhair Fern / *Adiantum pedatum*
 61 Masterwort / *Astrantia major* (part shade)
 62 'Mona Lavender' *Plectranthus* *
 63 Moneywort, creeping loosestrife, creeping jenny / *Lysmachia* (beautiful yellow groundcover)
 64 Monkshood / *Aconitum*
 65 Naked Lady, Surprise Lily, Magic Lily / *Lycoris squamigera* (needs sun)
 66 New Guinea Impatiens *
 67 Northern Sea Oata / *Chasmanthium latifolium*
 68 Ornamental Onion / *Allium 'karatavense'* (very early variety, tolerates part shade)
 69 Ostrich Fern / *Matteuccia struthiopteris*
 70 Painter's Palette Tovara / *Persicaria virginiana 'Painter's Palette'* (freely self-seeding)
 71 Pansie / biennials (treat as annual, may self-seed) *
 72 Pig Squeak / *Bergenia* (will also grow in full sun)
 73 Pineapple Lily * (several varieties available / needs part sun) *Eucomis comosa* *
 74 Poke Berry Variegated foliage / *Phytolaccaceae Phytolacca Americana* (freely self-seeding)
 75 Primrose / *Primula* (needs part sun)
 76 Purple Queen, Purple Heart, Wandering Jew */ *Tradescantia pallid* *
 77 Red Bud Trees / *Cercis Canadensis* (several cultivars)
 78 Roger's Plant / *Rodgersia aesculifolia* (impressive plant, likes moist soil)
 79 Sedge, 'Bowles Golden' or 'Aurea' / *Carex elata*
 80 Sedge, Palm / *Carex muskingumensis*
 81 Sedge, Plantain-Leaved / *Carex plantaginea*
 82 Sedge, Silver variegated Japanese / *Carex morrowii 'Variegata'*
 83 Sedum 'Dragon's Blood' / *Sedum spurium 'Fulda Glow'*
 84 Sedum kamtschaticum ssp ellacombianum / 6" tall, green sedum, yellow flowers
 85 Shooting Star / *Dodecatheon*
 86 Siberian Bugloss / *Brunnera* (many cultivars)
 87 Snowdrops / *Galanthus* (very early bulb)
 88 Solomon's Seal variegated / *Polygonatum ordoratum* (spread by rhizomes)
 89 Spanish bluebell, pink Spanish bluebell / *Scilla hispanica*
 90 Speedwell, buttercup / *Veronica Dwarf* cultivar 'Aztec Gold'
 91 Spider Wort / *Tradescantia*
 92 Spotted Dead Nettle / *Lamium*
 93 Sweet Woodruff / *gallium odoratum*
 94 Tatting Fern 'Frizelliae' / *Arthyrium filix-femina*
 95 Toad Lily / *Tricyrtis*
 96 Tri-color Beech tree / *Fagus Sylvatica 'Roseo-Marginata'* tree
 97 Tulips 7 species tulips
 98 Turtle Head / *Chelone*
 99 Variegated Porcelain Berry Vine / *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* (vigorous grower)
 100 Viburnum / shrubs (many cultivars available)
 101 Violas (may self-seed)
 102 Violet, Wild, Common Blue Violet / *Viola sororia* (many cultivars exist such as Black Violets)
 103 Virginia Bluebells / *Mertensia virginica* (best in a large woodland garden)
 104 Wake Robin, tri flower, birthroot / *Trillium*
 105 Wandering Jew (house plant) * / *Zebrina pendula*

- 106 Weigela 'Monet' dwarf variegated shrub, low mound forming, tri-color foliage
- 107 Wild Ginger Canadian / *Asarum canadense*
- 108 Wild Ginger European / *Asarum europaeum*
- 109 Winter Aconite (I have not grown this but have seen it lovely) / *Eranthis hyemalis*
- 110 Woodland phlox, wild Sweet William, Blue phlox, *Phlox divaricata*
- 111 Woodland Poppy / Celadine Poppy / *Styloiphorum diphyllum* (freely self-seeding)
- 112 Yellow Archangel / *Lamium galeobdolon*
- 113 Yellow Trout Lily / *Erythronium Americana*

Non-hardy plants are marked with *

The annuals listed here are favorites I love in my gardens and / or in containers in the shade.

Note: Bear's Breeches / *Acanthus mollis* & *Acanthus spinosissimus* / must be heavily mulched the first couple of winters until its tap root is down deep into the ground to prevent freezing out. Listed as zone 7 but will survive zone 5 with proper care. Needs part sun, grow in full sun for increased blooming. I have not grown this in my own garden due to the size of the plants.

The sedge grasses require moist soil to survive / thrive. I gave up on them.

Northern Sea Oats / *Chasmanthium latifolium* is beautiful but invasive as the plant is perennial & it is extremely free seeding. I try to cut off the seed pods for dried arrangements thus attempting to cut down the number of seedlings. It may mostly be considered a beautiful weed. It is beautiful in dried arrangements and will hold the color it is cut at. Thus if it's cut when the "oats" are blue-green, they will dry blue-green. If the "oats" are a stage of brown when the stems are cut, the oats will be that same brown color.

This is a non-inclusive listing of plants that are shade tolerant including woodland plants. The majority of these plants I have grown or grow in my gardens.

This is not the list from the ISU presentation I talked about in my President's Message. I comprised this list from my own experiences and the internet for the big names, etc. Feel free to contact me for questions / comments. I'm still looking for that other list. (smile)

Marlys Anderson



Doug Beilstein's H. 'Singin' the Blues' in Paula Lehtola's Bridgewater, MA garden – the one blue that stood out to me the most in any convention garden this past summer.