

[54] HOSTA PLANT SOLAR FLARE  
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[21] Appl. No.: 276,423  
[22] Filed: Nov. 25, 1988  
[51] Int. Cl.<sup>4</sup> ..... A01H 5/00  
[52] U.S. Cl. .... Plt./68

[58] Field of Search ..... Plt./68  
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[57] ABSTRACT  
A novel variety of Hosta, characterized by its large  
leaves of golden color borne on a large plant.  
2 Drawing Sheets

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BACKGROUND OF THE NEW VARIETY

The present invention relates to a new and distinct  
variety of Hosta plant; a clonal selection designated as  
Hosta 'Solar Flare'. This new Hosta displays a golden  
green leaf color in early Spring which changes to gol-  
den yellow, with bright green midrib and veins, as it  
matures. This plant is also easily distinguished by its  
unusually large size, when compared with other known  
Hosta plants.  
About 20 years ago; when varieties of Hosta available  
were very limited; I began a program intended to de-  
velop superior, new varieties of Hosta in golden foli-  
aged and variegated types. I began with open-pollin-  
ated seed collected from Hosta "Frances Williams",  
Hosta tokudama aureo-nebulosa and Hosta fortunei  
aurea. As the seedlings germinated, any which appeared  
to be golden-leaved or variegated were saved and  
planted out while the rest were discarded. Initially, out  
of many thousands of seedlings; only a few of the de-  
sired types appeared. Open pollinated seed was then  
collected from those which appeared to be most prom-  
ising and again the selection process was repeated. In  
1978; in third or fourth generation of open-pollinated  
seedlings; one appeared which was outstanding, unique  
and different from any others I had seen; here or any-  
where else. This selection produced a huge plant with  
very large leaves which were of a most unique color-  
ation; in that . . . as the season progressed . . . they  
developed into enormous light golden-yellow foliaged  
plants with a bright green midrib on the upper leaf  
surface; the green coloration also usually appearing in  
the veins on either side of the midrib as well. This  
CLONE was subsequently given the name of Hosta  
'Solar Flare' and was registered with the American  
Hosta Society; (which is the International registrar for  
Hosta) in 1981 under the name of the Gardenview Hor-  
ticultural Park of which I am the founder and director.  
Subsequently I propagated Hosta 'Solar Flare' vegeta-  
tively by natural division and now have about 8 clumps,  
all of which are absolutely identical with one another in  
all respects. The foliage of this clone begins with a  
greenish-gold in early Spring (more gold than green);  
and gradually changes, from week to week, until it  
matures at a light golden-yellow with bright green mid-  
rib and veins toward the end of the season. The nature  
and intensity of the yellow coloring depends upon light  
intensity and temperature. In shady, low light areas; it is  
greenish-gold while in full light it becomes a deep yel-  
low and in full sun, it bleaches out to a very light yel-  
low. The flowers are unimpressive and typical of hy-  
brids of Hosta sieboldiana. Although registered in 1981;

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this variety has never been released to the date of this  
application.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS  
ATTACHED

The first sheet depicts a single-crown specimen of the  
claimed plant; centrally, within a plating of normal  
sized, sister seedling plants. The second sheet has two  
close-up views showing individual leaves having char-  
acteristic prominent, uniform veining. The upper draw-  
ing shows the coloring in full sun while the lower draw-  
ing shows the coloring in full light but minimum sun.  
Color specifications are presented from Horticultural  
Colour Chart issued by the British Colour Council in  
collaboration with The Royal Horticultural Society  
(Wilson), except where ordinary terms of color are  
descriptive.

DESCRIPTION OF THE VARIETY  
PLANT

A herbaceous, clump-forming plant with short rho-  
zomes; forming a large clump with leaves basal, tufted,  
petioled. The plant is semi-upright in habit of growth  
and, under ideal growing conditions, easily reaches a  
foliage mass height of 3 feet with a comparable spread;  
depending upon whether it is a single crown plant or an  
old, established clump containing many crowns.

LEAVES

Made up of a leaf petiole up to 26" long, topped with  
an ovate leaf blade which; under ideal growing condi-  
tions; reaches up to 14" wide by 18 inches long. The leaf  
blade is ovate, base cordate with tip acute, margin entire  
and gently undulating, glaucous on top and pruinose  
beneath, with 18 pair of veins.

FOLIAGE COLORATION

Because the coloration varies; depending upon light  
conditions and temperature; it is not possible to assign  
any one specific color to the foliage. In low light, shady  
condition (in northern Ohio), the coloration is close to,  
but a bit deeper and more yellow than RHS Horticul-  
tural Color Chart Sap Green 62/3. In full light but no  
sun, the coloration is close to but a deeper, more muted  
shade of Barium Yellow 503/2. In full sun the color-  
ation bleaches out to Straw Yellow (604/3). Towards  
the latter part of the season the upper midrib develops a  
bright green coloration which often also spreads to the  
veins as well. The attached color photographs depict  
the color variations as closely as it is possible to do so.  
The single photo shows a single-crown plant at midsea-



son with the green midrib coloration beginning to appear. On page with the two photos; the upper photo shows the coloration in bright sun while the lower photo shows the coloration in full light but with no sun. Both photos were taken earlier in the season at which time the green veining had not yet appeared.

FLOWERS (*Not* a basis for this selection)

The flowers are unimpressive and typical of most *Hosta sieboldiana* x *Hosta fortunei* hybrids. The non-foliated flower stem is approximately 33 inches tall when the plant blooms and is then slightly above the developing foliage. As the foliage develops, it virtually hides the flower stem. Flowers funnelform up to 1½ inches long, almost white flushed with palest lilac, in a terminal, scapose, bracted, one-sided raceme, carrying 12–18 florets. Fertile.

This new and distinctive hybrid *Hosta*, of unknown parentage, was created by me. It is a *clonal* selection; which when vegetatively propagated, produces offspring all of which are absolutely identical with one

another in all respects. The special characteristics upon which this selection was based are

- 1. The very large size of the plant
- 2. The very large size of the leaves
- 3. The unusual and distinctive coloration of the foliage.

This clonal selection is extremely vigorous in habit of plant growth and striking because of the size and unusual coloring of its foliage; especially toward the later part of the growing season when the green midrib and veining appear on the upper surface.

I claim:

- 1. A new and distinct variety of *Hosta*, substantially as described and illustrated; named *Hosta* ‘Solar Flare’; particularly distinguished by its extreme large size and size of foliage in which the color ranges from golden-green to golden-yellow with bright green midrib and veins developing on the upper surface toward the end of the growing season.

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