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(54) **HOSTA PLANT NAMED ‘LIBERTY’**
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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(57) **ABSTRACT**
A distinct cultivar of Hosta named ‘Liberty’ particularly
characterized by its wide yellow to cream colored leaf
margins, its large upright growth habit, its thick and gently
undulating leaves, and pale-lavender flowers in mid summer.

3 Drawing Sheets

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention, *Hosta fluctuans* ‘Liberty’, relates
to a new and distinct cultivar of Hosta. This unique sport of
Hosta ‘Sagae’ (unpatented), hereinafter referred to as ‘Lib-
erty’, has a distinctive broad yellow leaf margin that is much
wider than that of its parent.

I have grown Hosta under large scale production for 20
years and during that period I have taken an interest in
identifying and isolating sports and mutations that were
unique and had the potential for market value. I have
selected, registered and introduced three sports that have
become significant internationally. My experience with the
Genus Hosta allows me to be confident that ‘Liberty’ is
unique and unlike any existing cultivar known to me.

The striking margins on ‘Liberty’ were first noticed while
growing in a block of Hosta ‘Sagae’ in my nursery in
Mobjack, Va. in the summer of 1996. I divided the original
clump into 5 divisions in the winter of 1997. Those divisions
matured and the division with the broadest variegated mar-
gin was selected as ‘Liberty’. A division of the new cultivar
was sent for propagating my micropropagation in 1998 in
Waseca, Minn. and the plants derived from culture have the
identical wide variegation as the original plant. The charac-
teristics of this new cultivar have therefore been determined
to be stable and are reproduced true to type in successive
generations.

The new Hosta has distinctive broad yellow irregular
margins on its leaves. The margin is much wider than of its
parent, Hosta ‘Sagae’. The variegation of ‘Liberty’ com-
prises almost a third of the leaf area; giving the whole plant
a much brighter appearance. The growth habit, foliage
coloration and flowers of ‘Liberty’ are similar to that of
Hosta ‘Sagae’.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
represent the characteristics of the new cultivar, ‘Liberty’.
These attributes in combination distinguish ‘Liberty’ as a
new and distinct cultivar of Hosta.

1. Leaf margins that comprise about one third of the leaf
area that emerge a yellow color and lighten to a cream color
as the leaf ages. The margins of Hosta ‘Sagae’ are much
narrower. The leaf centers are a glaucous green color. An
irregular, lighter glaucous green area exists between the leaf
center and margin.

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2. Upright vase-shaped growth habit.
3. Leaves emerge twisted but become gently undulated as
they mature.
4. Pale lavender flowers are present above the foliage on
arching scapes in mid summer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

In FIG. 1, three three-gallon containers of ‘Liberty’ are
shown in the foreground. The distinctive leaf margins can be
compared to that of the parent plant Hosta ‘Sagae’ that is
shown in the background.

FIG. 2 is of a single leaf of ‘Liberty’ that is placed on a
plant of ‘Krossa Regal’ (unpatented) as a background. The
margin color is of a mature leaf and the transitional color and
pattern between the center and margin can be observed. The
upright habit of ‘Liberty’ is apparent in FIG. 3.

FIG. 3 is of the same three ‘Liberty’ plants shown in FIG.
1 with a block of ‘Sagae’ plants in the background. All the
photographs are as true as can be reasonably obtained with
conventional photography.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a description of 3 year old plants of the
new cultivar as grown outdoors under 54% shade cloth in a
three gallon container in my nursery in Mobjack, Va. Phe-
notypic differences may be observed with variations in
environmental, climatic, and cultural conditions. The new
cultivar has not been tested under all possible conditions. All
color references are made with The Royal Horticultural
Society Colour Chart except where general terms of ordi-
nary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Hosta fluctuans* ‘Liberty’.
Parentage: Naturally occurring mutation of Hosta ‘Sagae’
(syn. *Hosta fluctuans*, ‘Variegated’).

General description:
Blooming period.—Midseason (relative to Hostas).
Mid summer in Virginia.
Plant habit.—Upright, vase-shaped mound.
Height and spread.—60 cm in height, up to 60 cm in
width when mature in 3 to 4 years.
Growth rate.—Relatively slow to make new divisions.
Hardiness.—Zone 3–8.
Type.—Herbaceous perennial.
Root system.—Branching, fleshy roots.

Propagation.—Division and tissue culture.

Culture.—Moist soils, light shade to full shade.

Disease resistance.—Heavy leaf substance confers slug resistance. No known resistance or susceptibility to other diseases known to *Hosta* has been observed.

Foliage description:

Leaf shape.—Broadly wedge-shaped (ovate), simple.

Emerging twisted and becoming gently undulated as the leaf matures. Apex is cuspidate. Base is cordate.

Leaf arrangement.—Basal; radiate spirally from base.

Leaf margin.—Entire.

Leaf size.—28 cm in length, 25 cm in width.

Leaf texture.—Glaucous, good substance.

Leaf venation pattern.—12 pairs of veins. Campylo-drome; veins curve outwards as the leaf widens and then curve inwards as the leaf narrows towards the tip. Veins appear impressed on the upper surface and prominent on the lower surface.

Leaf orientation.—Held horizontal on upright petioles.

Leaf color and variegation pattern.—Centers (upper, lower surface); glaucous green (137A, 137B) with an irregular transitional area that is a lighter green (146D, 146D).

Margins (upper, lower surface).—4 to 5 cm in width, comprising about one third of the leaf area, irregular in pattern, yellow green (151A, 151A) when the leaf emerges and changing to a yellow color in mid season (4B, 4B) and changing to a cream color as the leaf matures (11C, 11C).

Petiole size.—25–50 cm in length, 1.5 cm in width.

Petiole type.—Sulcate.

Petiole color.—137A streaked with 146D, glaucous.

Flower description:

Scapes.—90–100 cm in height, solid, Sound, 137 B in color, arching, small leafy bracts, arise from leaf axils, 3–4 per scape.

Leaf bracts.—3 to 4 per scape, centers are 137A in color with margins 4B in color, 1.0–2.5 cm in length and 0.5–1.0 cm in width, ovate, surface is glaucous.

Floral bracts.—1 per flower, ovate in shape, surface is glaucous, 157C in color, 0.5–0.75 cm in width and 0.75–1.5 cm in length.

Pedicels.—1.5 mm in diameter, 3 mm in length, 137D in color.

Flower arrangement.—Raceme of numerous (30–40) single flowers comprised of six tepals.

Flower shape.—Funnel-shaped.

Flower size.—5.5 cm in length, 2.5 cm in width.

Flower color (tepals).—Pale-lavender (85 D) with a thin, vertical, white (155C) stripe down the interior of each tepal.

Reproduction organs.—Stamens; 6, 8D in color, 5–6 cm in length (equal or slightly shorter than perianth).

Pistils: 6–7 cm in length, 155C in color, 3-lobed stigma, compound ovary of 3 locules.

Fruit/seed.—Capsule, 3 parted, 137 D in color, 6 cm in length and 0.6 cm in width. Seeds are 3.0 mm in length, 1.5 mm in width, ovate and nearly flat, 200A in color, 30–40 in number.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Hosta* plant named 'Liberty' substantially as herein illustrated and described.

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Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3