



(12) **United States Plant Patent**  
**Mortko**

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(54) **HOSTA PLANT NAMED ‘STITCH IN TIME’**

(50) Latin Name: *Hosta*  
Varietal Denomination: **Stitch in Time**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Hosta* named ‘Stitch in Time’,  
characterized by its wide yellow colored leaf margins and its  
unique gathering and stitching where the yellow leaf margin  
tissue meets the dark green center tissue.

**1 Drawing Sheet**

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**DESCRIPTION**

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar  
of *Hosta* plant, botanically known as *Hosta*, hereinafter  
referred to by the cultivar name ‘Stitch in Time’.

The new plant was discovered by the Inventor during the  
summer of 2003 as a non-induced, naturally occurring  
whole plant mutation of *Hosta* ‘Summer Breeze’ (not  
patented) at his nursery in Olathe, Kans., USA. Asexual  
propagation of the new cultivar by division in 2004 in  
Olathe, Kans. and by tissue culture in 2005 in Waseca,  
Minn., has shown the unique and distinct characteristics of  
this new plant are stable and reproduce true to type in  
successive generations.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and  
are determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘Stitch in  
Time’. These characteristics in combination distinguish the  
new *Hosta* as a new and unique cultivar:

1. Medium sized clump;
2. Dark green narrow-centered leaves with a very wide  
yellow margin which comprises approximately 80% of  
the leaf area;
3. A unique gathering or stitching effect where the green  
and yellow leaf tissues meet; and
4. Pale lavender flowers.

The new *Hosta* can be compared to its parent cultivar,  
‘Summer Breeze’. In the new *Hosta*, the margin width is  
substantially wider than in the *Hosta* ‘Summer Breeze’. The  
green center of the new *Hosta* is reduced proportionately to  
the increased margin. In addition the parent plant does not  
show the unique gathering or stitching effect where the green  
and yellow leaf tissue meets.

The new *Hosta* cultivar has not been observed under all  
possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary  
to some extent with variations in environmental conditions  
such as temperature, fertility and light intensity, but without  
any variance in the genotype.

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**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS**

The accompanying color photographs illustrate the over-  
all appearance of the new cultivar including its unique traits  
as a three year old plant growing in a one gallon container.  
The colors are as true as is reasonably possible with con-  
ventional photography.

FIG. 1 was taken in July and comprises a top perspective  
of a typical plant of the new *Hosta*.

FIG. 2 was taken in October and shows the front side of  
an individual leaf with the unique stitching effect between  
the center and margin tissue.

FIG. 3 was taken in October and shows the back side of  
an individual leaf.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE  
INVENTION**

In the following description, color references are made to  
The Royal Horticultural Society’s Colour Chart (1995  
edition) except where general terms of ordinary dictionary  
significance are used. The following observations and mea-  
surements describe a three-year old plant growing in a one  
gallon container, as depicted in the accompanying  
photographs, which was grown outdoors in Olathe, Kans.,  
USA.

Botanical classification: *Hosta* ‘Stitch in Time’.

Parentage: Naturally occurring whole plant mutation of  
*Hosta* ‘Summer Breeze’ (non patented).

Propagation:

*Method*.—By division and tissue culture.

Plant description:

*Plant habit*.—Compact, mounding, symmetrical.

*Culture*.—Light to medium shade in moist soil.

*Plant type*.—Herbaceous rhizomatous perennial.

*Plant height*.—20 cm (up to about 46 cm at maturity).

*Plant width*.—38 cm (up to about 107 cm at maturity).

*Vigor and growth rate*.—Moderate.

*Root system*.—Normal, fleshy, branching.

*Disease resistance*.—No known resistance or suscep-  
tibility to disease known to *Hosta* has been observed.

## Foliage description:

*Leaf shape*.—Broadly ovate with a cordate base.

*Leaf margin*.—Entire.

*Leaf surface*.—Slightly dull on top and slightly shiny on bottom.

*Leaf texture*.—Glabrous, moderate to heavy substance, slightly wavy leaf margins.

*Leaf size*.—10 cm in width, 11 cm in length (increasing to about 18 cm in width and 22 cm in length at maturity).

*Venation pattern*.—Campylodrome with 6 to 8 pairs of veins (increasing to 10–12 vein pairs at maturity).

Venation pattern becomes very irregular and contorted in the green centered tissue area.

*Leaf color*.—Dark green center (about RHS 138B) with a very wide golden yellow margin (about RHS 3C). The leaf margin comprises about 80% of the leaf surface and changes to a greenish yellow (about RHS 151D) late in the season.

**Petiole description:** Plant petioles may have a length of approximately 15 cm with a width of about 13 to 19 mm.

The petiole has a central region with a dark green color (about RHS 138B) with a margin having a golden yellow color (about RHS 3C).

## Flower scape description:

*Scape shape*.—Round, solid.

*Scape number*.—Each mature eye comprising the clump may produce a single flower scape under normal growing conditions.

*Scape posture*.—Straight, held upright at about 10 to 30 degrees from vertical.

*Scape size*.—About 46 to 76 cm in length, about 5 mm in diameter.

*Scape color*.—Dark green (about RHS 138B).

*Scape surface*.—Glabrous.

*Leaf bracts*.—None observed.

## Flower description:

*Inflorescence type*.—Terminal racemes of single funnel-shaped flowers on elongated scapes.

*Lastingness of inflorescence*.—About 4 weeks in mid-summer from first opening bloom to fading of last opening bloom, individual blooms last about one day.

*Flower shape*.—Funnel-shaped.

*Flower number*.—The number of flowers per raceme varies from about 15 to 30.

*Flower internode length*.—About 2 cm.

*Flower fragrance*.—None detected.

*Flower bud shape*.—Spathulate.

*Flower bud size*.—About 3 cm in length and 1.3 cm in diameter.

*Flower bud color*.—Pale lavender (about RHS 85D).

*Flower size*.—About 5.5 cm in length and 3 cm in diameter.

*Flower color*.—Pale lavender (about RHS 85D).

*Pedicels*.—About 5 mm in length, 2 mm in diameter, RHS 138B in color, glabrous surface.

*Perianth features*.—Comprised of 6 tepals, 3 internal and 3 external, overlapping in expanded region and fused in tube region.

*Tepal shape*.—Oblanceolate with acute apex.

*Tepal size*.—About 5 cm in length and 1 cm in width.

*Tepal color*.—Pale lavender (about RHS 85D).

*Tepal texture*.—Glabrous.

*Floral bracts*.—1 per flower, ovate in shape, glabrous surface, RHS 138B in color, about 3.5 cm in length and 1 cm in width.

## Reproductive organ description:

*Gynoecium*.—1 pistil; style is about 5.5 cm in length, 1 mm in diameter, white in color; stigma is 3-lobed and white in color; ovary is superior, compound, composed of 3 locules, RHS 146D in color.

*Androecium*.—6 stamens; filament is about 5 cm in length, 1 mm in diameter, white in color; anthers are about 3 mm in length, 1 mm in width, RHS 202A in color; pollen is abundant and RHS 15B in color.

*Fruit*.—Not observed under growing conditions tested.

*Seeds*.—Not observed under growing conditions tested.

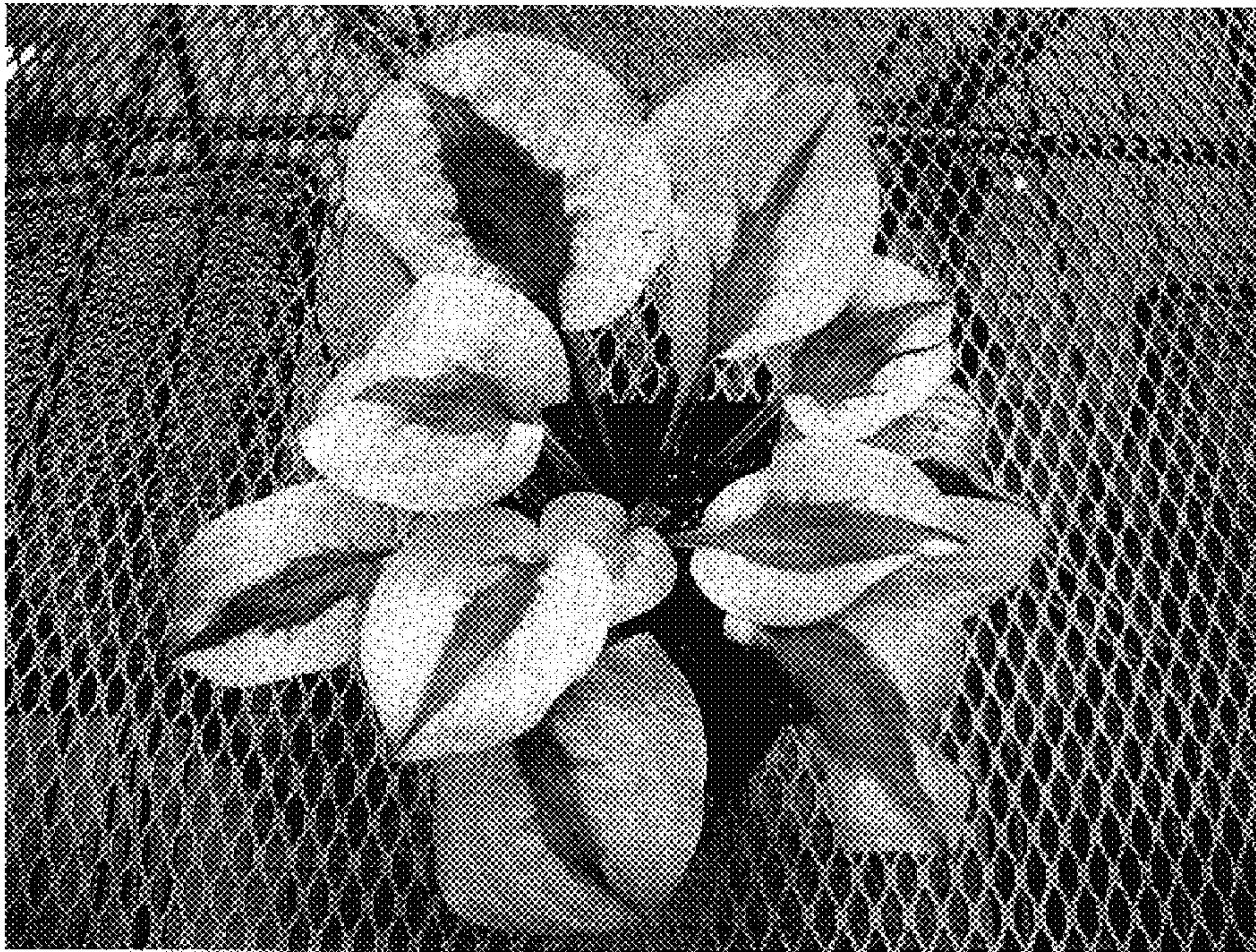
**Root development:** From transfer to rooting media in tissue culture, rooting takes approximately 4 weeks at about 20 degrees Celsius. After transfer from stage III in tissue culture to planting into soil in a greenhouse, a well rooted plant is produced in approximately 8 weeks with a day-time temperature of about 20 degrees Celsius and a soil temperature of about 26 degrees Celsius.

## I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Hosta* plant named ‘Stitch in Time’ as illustrated and described herein.

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**Figure 1**  
**Hosta 'Stitch in Time' (summer color, July 17<sup>th</sup>)**



**Figures 2 and 3**  
**Front and back of leaf (fall color, Oct 23rd)**