

A Quick Rule of Thumb

Hostas with yellow leaves or fragrant flowers can stand more sun than Hostas with green, blue or white leaves. There are, of course, always exceptions and you may know of a Hosta that is basking and thriving in full sun, but that is not rule.

Hostas for Full Sun: Yellow and Fragrant Hostas.

In general, yellow hostas need to be planted in a sunny location to keep their yellow color vibrant. Without at least a couple of hours of full sun, the yellow color will fade to green, or worse, look like a green leaf that is yellowing.

Similarly, fragrant hostas, those in the species *H. plantaginea*, need exposure to sun to develop their flowers. *H. plantaginea* is one of the most heat tolerant Hosta species. Keep in mind, the heat experienced in a full sun location can vary from area to area and even during different times of the day. Full sun in the morning hours will not be as intense as full sun at noon. While yellow and fragrant hostas need some sun exposure, they do not like to bake or fry in the sun. So if your site is extremely hot or dry, you will need to keep any hostas sitting in full sun well-watered.

Below is a list of plants that are known to hold up well in 4 hours or more of sun without excessive care in Zone 6 and further north. Consider this list as helpful, but not factual, because hostas prefer some shade.

Hostas with Full Sun Tolerance Potential

H. 'Allan P. McConnell'	H. 'August Moon'	H. 'Blue Angel'
H. 'Elegans'	H. 'Francee'	H. 'Halcyon'
H. 'Honeybells'	H. 'Invincible'	H. 'Krossa Regal'
H. 'Lancifolia'	H. 'Pearl Lake'	
H. <i>plantaginea</i> & family including:		
--- H. 'Aphrodite'		
--- H. 'Ming Treasure'		
--- H. 'Venus'		
H. 'Royal Standard'	H. 'So Sweet'	H. 'Sun Power'.
H. 'Sugar & Cream'	H. <i>undulata</i> & family including - H. <i>u.</i> 'Albomarginata'	

Hostas with 4 hours of sun tolerance

H. 'Abba Dabba Do'	H. 'Abiqua Moonbeam'	H. 'Alex Summers'
H. 'Ani Machi'	H. 'Aztec Treasure'	H. 'Birchwood Parky's Gold'
H. 'Blonde Elf'	H. 'Blue Cadet'	H. 'Blue Mammoth'
H. 'Blue Umbrellas'	H. 'Calypso'	H. 'Canadian Blue'
H. 'Chartreuse Ruffles'	H. 'Cherry Berry'	H. 'Choko Nishiki'

H. 'Christmas Tree'	H. 'Colossal'	H. 'Crusader'
H. 'Dee's Golden Jewel'	H. 'El Capitan'	H. 'Eternal Flame'
H. 'Fair Maiden'	H. 'Feather Boa'	H. 'Fire and Ice'
H. 'Fortunei Aureomarginata'	H. 'Fragrant Bouquet' & family including:	
	--- H. 'Fried Bananas'	
	--- H. 'Fried Green Tomatoes'	
	--- H. 'Guacamole'	
H. 'Fragrant Gold'	H. 'Fringe Benefit'	H. 'Geisha'
H. 'Golden Fascination'	H. 'Green Fountain'	H. 'Green Wedge'
H. 'Ginko Craig'	H. 'Glory'	H. 'Gold Drop'
H. 'Gold Edger'	H. 'Gold Regal'	H. 'Golden Anniversary'
H. 'Golden Tiara'	H. 'Green Gold'	H. 'Green Sheen'
H. 'Grey Piecrust'	H. 'Hadspen Blue'	H. 'Hirao Supreme'
H. 'Hoosier Harmony'	H. hypoleuca	H. 'Inniswood'
H. 'Janet'	H. 'Jewel Of The Nile'	H. 'Joker'
H. 'Josephine'	H. 'June'	H. 'Kiwi Sunshine'
H. 'Krossa Regal'	H. 'Lady Isobel Barnett'	H. 'Lakeside Kaleidoscope'
H. 'Lakeside Shoremaster'	H. 'Lemon Lime'	H. 'Love Pat'
H. 'Lucy Vitols'	H. 'Moonlight'	H. 'Morning Light'
H. 'Nancy Minks'	H. nigrescens	H. 'On Stage'
H. 'Paradise Joyce'	H. 'Patriot'	H. 'Paul's Glory'
H. 'Punky'	H. 'Radiant Edger'	H. 'Regal Splendor'
H. 'Richland Gold'	H. 'Sagae'	H. 'September Sun'
H. 'Shade Fanfare'	H. 'Shining Tot'	H. 'Squash Casserole'
H. 'Solar Flare'	H. 'Stained Glass'	H. 'Stiletto'
H. 'Sum and Substance' & family	H. 'Summer Fragrance'	H. 'Sundance '
H. 'Sun Glow'	H. Sunspot	H. 'Sweet Home Chicago'
H. 'Sweetie'	H. 'Swirling Hearts'	H. 'Treasure'
H. 'Vanilla Cream'	H. 'Vera Verde'	H. 'Warwick Delight'
H. 'Whirlwind'	H. 'Wrinkles and Cream'	H. 'Zounds'

Hostas for Partial Shade: Green, Blue and White

No Hosta is going to thrive in deep shade. They all need some sunlight to photosynthesize. The shade tolerant varieties seem to do best in an exposure of morning sun and afternoon shade. Too much sun exposure will result in burned leaves, starting from the edges inward.

Blue hostas require the most protection from the sun. This is because the blue color is actually a waxy coating on the leaves. The leaves themselves are a shade of green. The waxy coating

gives them a blue tint. In full, hot sun, this waxy coating melts and exposes the green leaf underneath, changing the color of your plant from blue to green. It could also expose the leaves to burning. Spraying the leaves with a pesticide or fertilizer can also cause the waxy coating to melt.

Special Consideration: White Hostas

Unfortunately, only trial and error can tell you which Hostas with white variegation can tolerate full sun without burning. The thicker the leaves, the more tolerant they will be of full sun. White variegated Hostas with thin leaves, like 'White Christmas', should be confined to partial shade to maintain their best appearance.

Another problem with white variegated hostas is that the leaves are white because they have minimal amounts of chlorophyll. In full sun, the chlorophyll levels can increase and cause the leaves to pick up a green cast and look less variegated. So only morning sun is recommended for white variegated hostas and the thinner the leaves, the less sun they can tolerate

Let Your Hosta Tell You When It's Had Too Much Sun

You can follow the rules and choose the recommend plants and still not have success. The only real gauge for how sun tolerant a plant is, is how it is performing. There are two clear signs that tell you your Hosta is getting too much sun:

1. Browning on the tips or outside edges of leaves
2. Dull color or faded spots on leaves

If your Hosta plants aren't doing as well as you would like, don't be afraid to move them. Hostas are strong plants and can withstand digging and replanting.

Hostas Demonstrating Full Sun Tolerance Potential

(Suggestions taken from the American Hosta Society and Home Gardeners' Recommendations)

- **Yellow Hosta:** August Moon, Gold Regal, Golden Sculpture Rising Sun, Squash Casserole, Sun and Substance, Sun Power
- **Yellow Variegated Hosta:** Gold Standard, Inniswood, Regal Splendor, Sundance
- **Fragrant Hosta:** H. plantaginea, Aphrodite, Fragrant Bouquet, Fried Green Tomatoes, Guacamole, Honeybells, Invincible', Royal Standard, Summer Fragrance, So Sweet, Sugar & Cream
- **White Variegated Hosta:** H. undulata Albomarginata, Francee, Minuteman, Patriot
- **Green Hosta:** Invincible, Pearl Lake

More Than Usual Sun Tolerance, But Not Full Sun:

- **Blue Hosta:** 'Blue Angel', 'Elegans', 'Halcyon', 'Krossa Regal'.