

2022 Hosta of the Year - 'Island Breeze'



First came 'Fire Island', a vivid yellow hosta. Then came its sport (genetic mutation), 'Paradise Island', with its bright yellow foliage with green margins. It then sported to 'Island Breeze', which has been named the 2022 Hosta of the Year by the American Hosta Growers Association.

We love this hosta. It has much thicker leaves, for starters, making it more durable and resistant to slug damage. The somewhat rounded leaves emerge bright gold with a medium green margin in the spring. As summer progresses, the gold becomes a softer yellow if the plant gets some good morning sun. In deeper shade, the yellow will be more chartreuse.

Adding to the stunning foliage show are the red petioles (leaf stems) that are especially noticeable as the plant emerges from the ground in the spring. The red even bleeds onto the base of the leaf just a bit. This gorgeous, medium-sized mound produces dark lavender flowers in late summer. To see it is to want it growing in your garden.