



## Ferns and Hostas

There are so many unique varieties of Hostas that never seem to be readily available at area garden centers. We are hoping to change this by offering a good supply of the following Hostas of the Year (HOTY): Hosta 'Sagae' 2000, Hosta 'June' 2001, Hosta 'Rainforest Sunrise' 2013 and Hosta 'Lakeside Paisley Print' 2019.

Ferns and hostas work extremely well when planted together. Not only do they play off each other, but also contrast and complement each other. Kinda like Sweet & Sour. Hostas wide, solid leaves paired with the light airy and graceful **texture** of the fern fronds is visually interesting. This is where foliage **colors** really shine and bring out the best coloring in whatever it is paired with. There are so many "green on green" variations that can light up a shady spot. Now add in some chartreuse colored Hosta such as 'August Moon,' 'Lemon Frost,' or one of my favorites, HOTY 2004, 'Sum and Substance.' How about some shades of blue? Try Hosta 'Halycon', Hosta 'Blue Angel', or Hosta 'Hadspen Blue'. Or go **small** in front of the border with Hosta 'Blue Mouse Ears'.

My favorite fern is the prolific Ostrich fern which multiplies year after year. Tough to beat this reliable fern which likes it on the wet side. If you like to cook, the Ostrich ferns produce fiddleheads each spring. Japanese Painted ferns are the most colorful fern. Planting them amongst stone steps and along the bottom of a rock wall is an eye catcher. Hay Scented fern is another prolific spreader. This good-looking fern does well in partial shade to partial sun. It is drought tolerant and will take on the unique look of a green carpet smothering out weeds. The following links will provide you with additional helpful and valuable information:

[Pioneer Valley Fern Society](#)

[Gardening with Ferns](#)

[How to Plant and Care for Hosta Plants](#)

[New England Hosta Society](#)

