Peter Knippel Garden Centre

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First Blush Hosta

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Hosta 'First Blush'

Height: 14 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 16 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Plantain Lily, Funkia

Description:

A beautiful compact variety featuring low growing mounds of green foliage with brick red blushing and margins; lavender purple flowers appear on tall scapes during the mid summer months; an easy to grow selection perfect for beds and borders

Ornamental Features

First Blush Hosta features dainty spikes of lavender tubular flowers rising above the foliage in mid summer. Its attractive narrow leaves remain green in colour with hints of brick red throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

First Blush Hosta is a dense herbaceous perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects

First Blush Hosta is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting



First Blush Hosta foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Planting & Growing

First Blush Hosta will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 16 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in partial shade to shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

First Blush Hosta is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.