

# Hosta

## Shadowland®



### ZONE HARDINESS 3 – 9

#### NUTRITION

**pH:** 5.8 – 6.5

**EC:** (2:1 extraction method) 0.6 – 0.9

Moderate fertilization is adequate.

#### TEMPERATURE for forcing from liners

**Forcing/Growing on:** 60 F Night – 65 F Day

**Holding:** 50 F Night – 55 F Day

Plants can be moved outside under a shade cloth or lath house once the danger of frost has passed. Care should be taken to avoid frost. An open environment with good air movement will often strengthen the stems, bring out the richness of the coloration and produce a better finished product.

#### WATERING

Keep the soil evenly moist during all stages of growing. It's best to water as early in the day as possible to avoid edge burn caused by high light and salts burning the edge of the foliage.

#### TIMING

**Supernova® 28 Liner to Trade Gallon/True Gallon:** 8 – 10 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 12 for finishing in Week 20. However, root development as well as proper vegetative growth require long days, and forcing gallons in the spring from liners doesn't produce as high of a quality finished product as does the typical summer bulk and vernalization model.

**50 Liner to Quart:** 8 – 10 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 12 for finishing in Week 20. However, root development as well as proper vegetative growth require long days, and forcing gallons in the spring from liners doesn't produce as high of a quality finished product as does the typical summer bulk and vernalization model. Additionally, if planting Standard 50 liners into a gallon is desired, it's best to do a spring planting and plan on a traditional summer bulk and vernalization schedule. This requires almost a full year in production to reach optimal finished standards.

#### VERNALIZATION

If growing for foliage interest alone, vernalization should not be needed. If flowers are required, a typical perennial fall bulk and vernalization schedule will be required.

#### PLANTING

When your plants arrive, they may appear dead, but the growing points or "eyes" on the *Hosta* when shipped dormant are resting at or just below the soil line. It will only take 4 – 7 days for new growth to appear once they are planted. Plant the dormant plug so that the soil line of the plug is even to or just slightly below the soil line of the fresh planting media. When planting, take care not to bury the crown of the plant too deeply. Loosening of the liner root-ball can speed up rooting. Plant in moist, well-drained medium.

When growing perennials, we recommend using an aged or composted pine bark based media as opposed to annual growing mixes that traditionally tend to be heavier in peat. Bark adds weight and stability to the growing mix and tends not to compress and shrink over time, thus adding the longevity that can be needed on long-term crops such as perennials.

#### LIGHT/LIGHTING

If forcing in short day conditions, long days will be required to maintain proper vegetative growth. Plants should be spaced such that they do not shade each other. Plants grown during the summer months should be shaded with at least 30% shade to bring out the best color and prevent sunburn and discoloration. 'Empress Wu,' if poorly rooted, can be sensitive to high salts and can exhibit slight leaf burn.

#### TRIMMING/PINCHING

*Hostas* should not be trimmed during forcing. Since Proven Winners® *Hosta* are shipped free of plant viruses, mass mechanical trimming is not recommended due to the potential of spreading viruses.



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The rates and chemicals listed are based on our southeast Michigan growing conditions, and are not recommended for nationwide application. Please adjust the rates and spray applications to your location and facility.



## GROWTH REGULATORS

A tank mix of B-Nine® (daminozide) at 2,500ppm + 5ppm Sumagic® (uniconazole) is efficient at controlling height where needed. Multiple applications may be needed at seven-day intervals on larger varieties or under warm greenhouse conditions. A 6ppm – 10 ppm Bonzi® (paclobutrazol) drench is also effective. 'Empress Wu' and 'Seducer' are much more likely to require height control when compared to 'Autumn Frost,' 'Coast to Coast,' 'Hudson Bay' and 'Wheee!'. Natural air or spacing wind movement and cooler temperatures are also effective at controlling height and producing a high quality crop.

## PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Insect pressure is often not a problem, but a good routine scouting program is recommended to ensure that Aphids, Slugs, Spider Mites, Thrips and other greenhouse pests don't cause crop loss. Set rodent traps or bait with the winter months. Foliar diseases should also be scouted for to prevent Leaf Spots, Petiole Rot and Crown Rots.

## OTHER TIPS

*Hosta* being grown and bulked when the days are naturally short should be grown under long days using photoperiodic lighting to keep them actively growing. Night interruption lighting will achieve this.

