

The Hosta Collection



The Hosta Collection of the Elon University Botanical Garden is located on the west side of Alumni Gym and Koury Fitness Center. The collection is tucked in between the covered walkway and the building and extending into the grassy area under the trees. This area provides the vital shade that hostas need to survive in our climate. A key feature of the garden is the dry creek beds that run through the garden areas.

Hostas are easy to grow, shade tolerant, herbaceous perennials grown for their beautiful foliage. Their foliage comes in a wide variety of colors, shapes, sizes, and textures. Hostas are native to Japan, Korea, and China and was introduced to the United States in the mid 1800's. There are hundreds of species and thousands of cultivars as the result of hybridizing and tissue culture propagation.

The Hosta Collection is divided into three main categories throughout the garden; size/height, type of hosta, and the need of exposure to the sun.

1. Based on size; giant > 36", large 24"-36", medium 12"-24", and small <12"
2. Based on hosta; variegated, blue, green, gold, and any special features
3. Based on exposure; part sun, part shade, and shade

There are over 200 cultivars in garden. You may also see hostas throughout the botanical garden landscape, however this is the most concentrated collection in this garden space.