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## PLANT CORNER

Welcome to another year of the Plant Corner, a series of profiles of **STAR PERFORMERS** among perennial garden plants from the folks at Chaska Farm & Garden.



### 'Dragon Tails'

Perhaps I often forget that all gardeners are not Hosta nerds. Some 7,000 named Hosta varieties inhabit this nerdy Hosta world, and Chaska Farm & Garden has over 325 varieties to choose, still new introductions excite. Most casual gardeners likely have a fixed idea of a Hosta being a fat-leaved plant, green with white leaf margins, about a foot or more tall, and good for shade. With that as a good start, I like to think of Hostas as dogs and generic Hostas as black labs, there being Great Danes and Chihuahuas too.

'Dragon Tails' is a lap Hosta, but vigorous and a fast clumper. It grows to only 6 in. tall making it at minimum a good ground cover. The leaves are an exceptionally clear, clean yellow, a welcome sight in shade. The leaves are long and narrow with a distinctly wavy edge and the overall texture of the plant clump is fine and almost grass-like. Lavender flowers bloom above the leaves for a mid-summer bump.

Mini Hostas have generated a lot more interest lately, perhaps gardens are smaller now or people are just running short on space with so many Hosta varieties. They are also at home in container gardens and the now popular fairy gardens.

I have to drop a few more mini Hosta names because there are so many. 'Blue Mouse Ears' is self descriptive, its leaves as tough as cardboard. 'Rainbows End' is distinctly streaked and striped, also has thick leaves. 'Pandora's Box' is so tiny yet its white leaf centers are very pronounced. Then there is 'Peanut', 'Imp', and 'Cracker Crumbs'. All these Hostas and more have something special to offer even for the gardener who can't remember their names. Oh, and don't forget the spaniels and poodles!

— Tom

# Chaska FARM & GARDEN



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