



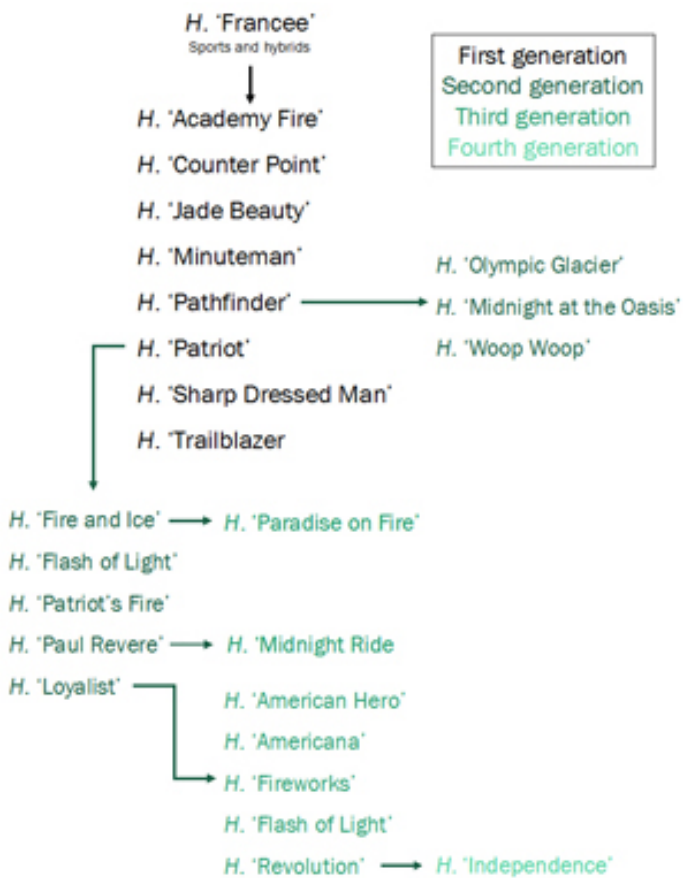
H. 'Francee'

This month we feature this wonderful old cultivar and look at the new varieties which have been introduced from it. The family resemblances are obvious in this branch of the genus, which is why we wanted to feature it. We confined ourselves to cultivars we hold in our collection, and could exhibit, so this is not a definitive view...

The H. 'Francee' family tree

The following table lists the first generation of sports and hybrids of *H. 'Francee'*:

Click on the image below to view the four generations of cultivars which have come from *h. 'Francee'*, and are featured in this newsletter:



First generation
 Second generation
 Third generation
 Fourth generation



H. 'Minuteman'



H. 'Pathfinder'



H. 'Patriot'



H. 'Trailblazer'

Following up on fragrance...

Last month we featured hosta varieties with fragrant flowers in our run-up to the Tatton Park Flower Show. However, we neglected to mention a rather special National Collection of fragrant varieties held by James Coultts, in Dumfries.

James's collection of hybrids and cultivars of *h. plantaginea* is set in a fabulous garden, which is well worth a visit - find out more on his [website](#).

Tatton Park Show

The fragrant varieties were a huge success at the Tatton Park show. We received a Gold Medal for our exhibit. Click on the images below to view:



Seeing double - or triple...

Something we wanted to highlight with this branch of the genus is the likelihood of duplication, or the introduction of cultivars that look very similar. In this first generation of sports and hybrids from *h. 'Francee'* we can clearly see three cultivars that look very

similar; *h.* 'Patriot', *h.* 'Minuteman' and *h.* 'Trailblazer'

In the second generation of sports and hybrids from *h.* 'Patriot' we have; ***h.* 'Fire and Ice'**, ***h.* 'Loyalist'** and ***h.* 'Paul Revere'**.

All three sports are visually so similar as to look identical - see photo on right. However, they have differing growth rates. The American Hosta Society conducted a 10-point analysis of these three plants and *h.* 'Loyalist' proved to be the strongest, most reliable, grower. So it is no surprise that it has been used to great effect in producing new cultivars, as the family tree indicates. As successive generations of sports and hybrids appear, so does the occurrence of duplication - here are some examples:



***H.* 'Academy Fire'**

H. 'Academy Fire' is a first generation sport of *h.* 'Francee'.

H. 'Patriot's Fire' is a second generation sport of *h.* 'Patriot'.



***H.* 'Patriot's Fire'**



***H.* 'Olympic Glacier'**

H. 'Olympic Glacier' is a second generation sport of *h.* 'Pathfinder'.

H. 'Independence' is a fourth generation sport of ***h.* 'Revolution'**.



***H.* 'Independence'**



***H.* 'Woop Woop'**

H. 'Woop Woop' is a second generation sport of *h.* 'Pathfinder'.

H. 'American Hero' is a third generation sport of *h.* 'Loyalist'



***H.* 'American Hero'**

Desirable characteristics

H. 'Francee' has a striking contrast of green and white in the leaf, which has been exaggerated in subsequent cultivars. Second generation cultivars have proportionally more white in the margins. Third generation cultivars have whiter leaf centres and much darker green margins.

Green speckled white areas of the leaf first appears in *h.* 'Pathfinder'. This characteristics has been enhanced in the latest sport from this cultivar, ***h.***

'Midnight at the Oasis',

see photo below:



A final word on desirable characteristics is in the side column opposite.

Next month: The *h.* 'Gold Edger' family tree

The advice and opinions contained within this monthly newsletter have been formed over more than 35 years of experience with the Hosta genus. We are constantly learning and refining that knowledge and would welcome any suggestions that readers of this newsletter would like to make so please **contact us**.

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