



APPLICATIONS UNDER EXAMINATION

HOSTA

HOSTA
(Hosta)

Proposed denomination: 'Empress Wu'
Application number: 08-6434
Application date: 2008/09/10
Applicant: Skaggs, Brian & Virginia, Lowell, Indiana, United States of America
Agent in Canada: Variety Rights Management, Oxford Station, Ontario
Breeder: Brian and Virginia Skaggs, Skaggs, Brian & Virginia, Lowell, Indiana, United States of America

Variety used for comparison: 'T Rex'

Summary: *The plants of 'Empress Wu' are large to very large in size while the plants of 'T Rex' are medium to large. The leaf blade of 'Empress Wu' is longer and wider than the leaf blade of 'T Rex'. The upper side of the leaf blade of 'Empress Wu' has medium glaucosity while the upper surface of the leaf blade of 'T Rex' has weak glaucosity. The upper side of the leaf blade is bluish green for 'Empress Wu' while it is yellowish green for 'T Rex'. The corolla of 'Empress Wu' is pale violet in colour while the corolla of 'T Rex' is white. The peduncle of 'Empress Wu' is longer than the peduncle of 'T Rex'.*

Description:

PLANT: shade tolerant, large to very large size

LEAF BLADE: large, weak curvature, straight in profile, cordate shape, acute apex, cordate base, absent to very weak undulation of margin, no variegation

LEAF BLADE - UPPER SURFACE: ribbed texture, veins shallow to medium in depth, medium glaucosity, absent or very weak glossiness, bluish-green

LEAF BLADE - LOWER SURFACE: weak glaucosity

FLOWER: mid-season flowering, very weak fragrance

COROLLA: horizontal attitude, funnellform, pale violet, no striations, medium thick peduncle.

Origin and Breeding: The variety 'Empress Wu' originated from a cross between the variety 'Big John' as the female and male parent. The cross was made at Lowell, Indiana, USA in 1999. After further evaluation in 2000, the variety was selected for its size and rapid growth.

Tests and Trials: Trials were conducted during the summer of 2010 in Oxford Station, Ontario. Ten plants of each variety were grown in 16.5 cm pots in a polyhouse. Plants were spaced approximately 40 cm apart. Observations and measurements were taken on 10 plants of each variety. Colours were determined using the 2001 Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Chart.

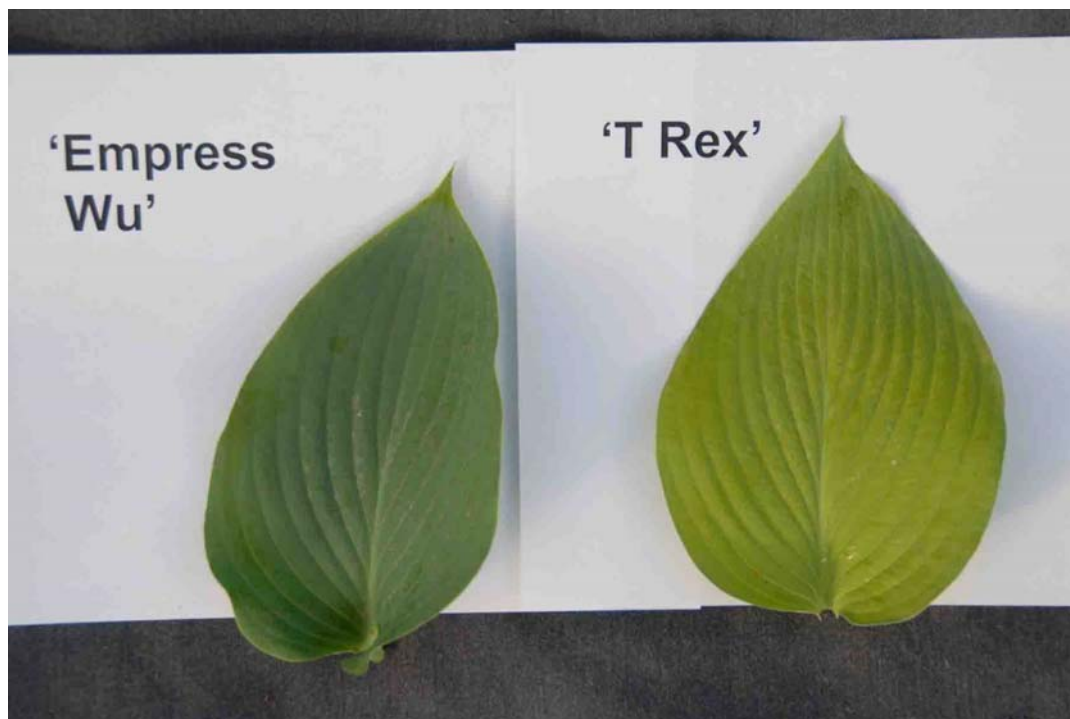
Comparison table for 'Empress Wu'

	'Empress Wu'	'T Rex'*
<i>Leaf blade length (cm)</i>		
mean	32.20	27.60
std. deviation	3.01	1.74
<i>Leaf blade width (cm)</i>		
mean	12.5	10.2
std. deviation	2.24	1.15

Peduncle length (cm)

mean	72.2	53.6
std. deviation	4.71	2.39

*reference variety



Hosta: 'Empress Wu' (left) with reference variety 'T Rex' (right)



Hosta: 'Empress Wu' (left) with reference variety 'T Rex' (right)