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Hosta plantaginea

[Synonyms : *Funkia legendrei*, *Funkia subcordata*, *Hemerocallis plantaginea*, *Hosta grandiflora*, *Hosta subcordata*]

PLANTAIN LILY is a perennial. Native to China and Japan it has fragrant white flowers. It is also known as August lily, *Bohyška jitrocelová* (Czech), *Doftfunkia* (Swedish), Fragrant plantain lily, *Funkia*, and *Hosta*.

The flowers are fragrant at night and open in the evening.

Plantaginea is derived from the genus name *Plantago* meaning ‘plantain-like’.

Although many authorities assert that plantain lily had already reached Europe by 1789, others have also noted that it was one of the species brought home by Dr. Philipp Franz von Siebold (1796-1866) after his expulsion from Japan in 1829.

Their acceptance by the English gardening fraternity would seem to have been very slow and it appears that plantain lilies only began their gradual climb towards today’s continuing popularity in the 1830s.