

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

### *Hosta plantaginea*

[Synonyms : *Funkia alba*, *Funkia cordata*, *Funkia grandiflora*, *Funkia japonica*, *Funkia japonica* var. *subcordata*, *Funkia legendrei*, *Funkia subcordata*, *Hemerocallis alba*, *Hemerocallis japonica*, *Hemerocallis plantaginea*, *Hosta grandiflora*, *Hosta japonica*, *Hosta plantaginea* forma *aphrodite*, *Hosta plantaginea* forma *grandiflora*, *Hosta plantaginea* var. *japonica*, *Hosta plantaginea* forma *stenantha*, *Hosta sieboldiana* var. *bracteata*, *Hosta subcordata*, *Niobe cordifolia*, *Niobe plantaginea*, *Saussurea japonica*, *Saussurea plantaginea*]

**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), *Dofffunkia* (Swedish), Fragrant plantain lily, *Funkia*, and *Hosta*.

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

*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. It appears that plantain lilies only began their gradual climb towards today’s continuing popularity in the 1830s.