



HELIOPSIS 'LORAIN SUNSHINE'

PATENTED BY HANSON'S GARDEN VILLAGE

We have a history of working with the cheery and very hardy Midwestern native plant known to botanists as *Heliopsis helianthoides scabra* – and better known to gardeners as Sunflower Heliopsis – since the mid-1990's. Spurred by the discovery of a chance garden seedling by our employee Loraine Mark (now, sadly deceased) we patented and released our first introduction in 1998.

Heliopsis 'Lorraine Sunshine' (PP# 10,690) was named in honor of her. Its unusual variegation (white leaves with green veins), 30-inch flowering height, and abundant flowering for a variegated plant make it special. Presently the sales and use of this plant in gardens spans the globe – most notably in the US, Canada, the European Community and Japan.

***Heliopsis 'Lorraine Sunshine'*:**

Breeder: Brent Hanson

Introduced by: Blooms of Bressingham, UK and California

Hardiness: USDA Zones 3-9

Features: Unique white leaves with green veins, plentiful yellow daisy flowers

Habit: Flowering Height about 30", width 24", late to emerge in Spring

Flower Period: Mid to late Summer; Leaves can get greener in the Fall

Culture: Grow in average, well-drained to moist soil in full to partial sun

Uses: Mid-border, flowers seem to float on the masses of variegated leaves

Propagation: Patented. Homeowners can divide clumps. Seed is not 100% true, so remove green leaved seedlings in a garden situation.

Diseases: Resistant to powdery mildew, at least in the North

HELIOPSIS 'TUSCAN SUN'

'Lorraine Sunshine' fueled our interest in developing Heliopsis even more, and Brent Hanson and then-employee David Zlesak spent much thought and energy into expanding the gardening uses of Heliopsis over the next few years. Out of that breeding and trialing program (the most intensive one for Heliopsis at the time) came a number of interesting selections. Not all have been released to the market, but David and Brent are very excited about the patenting and marketing of 'Tuscan Sun' (PP# 18,763). 'Tuscan Sun' is the most compact green-leaved Heliopsis on the market and is great for the front of the border and for use in container gardening. Released in 2008 and marketed as a Proven Selections variety, it was upgraded in 2009 as a full Proven Winners choice due to its popularity and excellent garden performance. Proven Winners is probably the world's most-recognized plant brand name.

David (Dr. David Zlesak, University of Wisconsin-River Falls) and Brent were honored with being published in the top horticulture scientific journal "HortScience" in the summer of 2008 (HortScience 43(3):927-928), with a cultivar and germplasm report on the merits of 'Tuscan Sun' and how it was developed and propagated. David and Brent have a rare joint US Plant Patent, and also have breeder protection in Europe. They are both proud of the fact that these significant plant releases are sourced from a tough Midwest native. See below for variety descriptions of both releases. Of course, both are grown and sold at Hanson's.

Heliopsis 'Tuscan Sun':

Breeders: Brent Hanson/David Zlesak

Introduced by: Proven Winners, Sycamore, IL

Hardiness: USDA Zones 3-9

Features: Tremendous flowering on very compact plants

Habit: 12-20" tall at flowering; 20" wide in garden, green leaves

Flower period: All Summer

Culture: grow in average soil, in full sun (or very lightly shaded)

Uses: Front of the border, small gardens, container gardening

Propagation: Patented. Clump division possible over time.

Diseases: Resistant to powdery mildew. Keep out of saturated soils.

