

HOW TO GROW PEONY

Peonies have massive, showy blooms and fragrant aromas that have numerous species world-wide, which mostly comes from Europe and Asia. They are perennials with tuberous roots that absorb water and nutrients that have been in cultivation as garden plants. The most important species is the garden peony native to southern European mountain regions, while tree peonies and Chinese peony have been a mainstay in the Chinese garden culture for nearly 2000 years. They usually bloom from late spring to late summer which are best planted in the fall season. Plant them in nutrient-rich, well-draining soil and you will be rewarded with spectacular flowers with minimal care for years to come.

Planting Procedure:

Step 1: Select Planting Location

- A. Peonies grow best when planted in autumn season.
- B. Select a location that receives 6-8 hours of sunlight each day.
- C. Provide shelter for strong winds.
- D. Make enough space between peony plants around 3 feet apart. Avoid planting near trees and bushes as their root systems will compete with peonies for nutrients.



Step 2: Planting Peonies

- A. Choose a specific peony type to plant.
- B. If you want to add some fertilizer to the soil, dig a hole 12-18 inches deep and wide.
- C. Add dark compost, well-aged manure or pine bark to the bottom to improve drainage.
- D. Plant peonies with small buds pointed upward.
- E. Give the new plant a thorough watering to help the soil settle around them.
- F. During winter, put mulch to protect the peonies from frosts.



Step 3: Caring for Peonies

- A. Peonies are drought-tolerant so water sparingly.
- B. Minimal fertilization is required.
- C. Create a support such as caging or grid-like wire for large variety peonies.
- D. Deadheading by cutting off dead flowers, stems and leaves to encourage longer blooms of healthy flowers.
- E. Peonies are perennials which means roots can survive for several years but the flowers will grow, bloom and die by autumn season. When stems become dead and brown by end of autumn, you may cut the plant back to ground level.

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