

QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Full to part sun.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	3 to 8.
PLANT TYPE	Perennial.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 12-inch or larger container.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	At least 3 feet apart.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	3 to 4 feet tall with a similar spread.
BLOOM TIME	Late spring to early summer.
TIME TO REACH MATURITY	3 years.
FACTS OF NOTE	Fragrant. Great for cut flowers. Low maintenance.

Thank you for your order!

PLANT WARRANTY

We warrant perennials for 1 year and annuals for 90 days from the time of the original shipment. If for any reason you are dissatisfied, we will replace your plant with a similar or comparable one, at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will reshipe the following shipping season.

If you have any questions or concerns about your order, please contact us at 888-593-3644 or help@cottagefarmsdirect.com.

Caution: Do not assume any plant is safe to eat. Only parts of plants expressly grown to be eaten should be considered edible. As with any product that is not food, care should be taken to make sure that small children and pets do not ingest any part of the plant that is not expressly grown to be eaten.

Unless specifically stated, this product is intended for ornamental horticultural use only and is not intended for consumption or ingestion by humans or pets. Most plants are harmless, but some contain toxic substances which can cause adverse health effects. Furthermore, some individuals and some animals are sensitive or allergic to certain plants and precautions should be taken to limit or avoid physical contact with particular plants. Some plants have thorns or spines that can be painful if handled.

**In case of ingestion contact a poison control center immediately.
1-800-222-1222**

PEONIES



*Image on cover is representative of the type of plant(s) in this offer and not necessarily indicative of actual size or color for the included variety.

OUT OF THE BOX

PEONY

Your plants have been shipped to you in bare root form. We urge you to remove them from the shipping box and plant them as soon as possible. Should planting be delayed due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, keep the bare root plants in a cool, dark location until you are ready to plant them. A refrigerator is ideal, but an unheated garage or basement is also acceptable. Keep bare roots moist, but not soaking wet by using a spray bottle to mist them. Once planted, they begin setting roots and, as the weather warms, begin showing new growth. Please plant as soon as possible, provide reasonable care and be patient.

Occasionally, bare roots may arrive with a small amount of mold on them. This is caused by temperature changes encountered in shipping and does not harm the plant. As long as the bare root divisions are firm, simply wipe any mold off with a paper towel and plant them.



SHIPPED AS SHOWN

SOIL PREPARATION

We recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office (www.nifa.usda.gov/extension or by calling 1-800-333-4636). A soil test can determine if your soil needs any amendments to enhance the growth and performance of your plants.

Ideal garden soil is easy to dig in and drains well while still holding the nutrients and water vital to plant growth. To prepare a bed for in-ground planting, spade or till the soil to a depth of roughly 12-18 inches. Next, spread a 2-4 inch layer of organic matter such as compost, shredded leaves or peat moss over the soil and mix well.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Dig a hole slightly larger than each bare root division (see illustration at right). Position the root so the pink buds (eyes) are between one and two inches below ground level. If planted too deeply, peonies will not flower. Fill the hole with soil, carefully packing soil around the root with your hands. Take care not to damage the tender pink eyes. Water thoroughly.



CONTINUING CARE

Adequate and consistent watering is essential during your plant's first year in the garden. Infrequent, long soakings of water that thoroughly saturate the soil are more effective than frequent, light applications of water.

Due to variable geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is difficult to define. However, as a rule of thumb, you should not allow the soil or the original root ball to completely dry out. During the first summer, you may need to water as often as every few days in periods of drought and extreme summer heat. To determine if your plant needs water, dig a few inches into the soil next to the plant. If the soil is dry 2-3 inches below the surface, it is time to water.

Overwatering can be as damaging as under watering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant has adequate drainage to move water away from the plant. If you choose to plant in a container, always select one with drainage holes to prevent your plant's roots from sitting in water.

Feed your plants once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water-soluble fertilizer. Discontinue feeding after September 1st so your plants can harden off for winter dormancy. Resume fertilizing when new growth appears in the spring.

CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

MULCHING

Apply a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic matter around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures and discourage weed growth. Replenish the mulch as needed.

WEEDING

Keep the area around your plants free of weeds. Weeds compete with surrounding plants for food, water and light. Walk around the garden periodically and pull weeds, including the roots, as soon as you see them.

PRUNING

Clip off dead, damaged or unsightly growth as needed and remove spent flowers as blooms fade. Cut each plant to the ground after the foliage has died back in late fall.

Once planted, peonies should be left to grow undisturbed. Do not be alarmed if some fail to bloom the first year and have only a few blossoms the second season. It typically takes three years for peonies to become fully established and attain mature blooming size.

WINTERIZING

Watering thoroughly in late fall will greatly enhance your plant's cold tolerance once the ground has frozen.

Peonies are very hardy, but will benefit from mulching in cold areas. The time to winterize your plants is in late fall. When winterizing your perennials, keep in mind that the root system is the most vulnerable to cold damage. Mulch heavily by mounding a 6-8 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic material around the base of each plant.

In very cold areas, containerized plants can be brought into an unheated, protected area such as a garage or cellar before temperatures drop below freezing. Check soil moisture every 2-3 weeks and water as needed during winter.

In spring, remove mulch from in-ground plantings. Containerized plants should be moved back out into the garden sunlight where they will begin to repeat their yearly garden performance.