



## Peony Basics

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### How to Plant

Choose a location that has a minimum of 5-6 hours of direct sun each day. Make sure this area is well drained—NO soggy or standing water. Amend the soil in the area with generous amounts of compost, digging it in several inches deep. When positioning the peony in the planting hole, make sure that the pink buds or “eyes” on the tuberous root face upwards and are **no deeper than 2 inches beneath the top of the soil**. Space peonies at least 3 feet apart.

### How to Care for Your Peony

- **WATER IT:** Water deeply when first planted. Repeat this deep watering every few days, checking first to see if the soil around the peony is dry. Once established, the peony will need 1-2 good soakings a week
- **STAKE IT:** Yes, you probably will need to **stake your peony**, as the blooms are often quite full and heavy. Put the supporting cage into the ground around the peony as soon as you see the green shoots emerge in the spring
- **FERTILIZE IT:** The best fertilizer is an application of compost (Nature’s Yield or EKO compost) each fall, lightly scratched into the soil around the plant. It’s also fine to fertilize with a good organic granular fertilizer (Organic Garden-Tone Herb and Vegetable, Happy Frog All Purpose, or Age Old Granular in Full Bloom) in spring.
- **ANTS:** Ants aren’t necessary for Peony buds to open. The buds secrete nectar, which attracts the ants. The ants don’t harm the peony flowers.
- **AFTER FLOWERING:** Cut off the spent flower heads and you will have an attractive shrub with glossy green leaves all summer. **DO NOT** cut the peony bush down in the fall until all stalks are completely brown and laying on the ground.

### Fragrant Peonies

Alexander Fleming –double pink  
 Duchesse de Nemours- double white  
 Edulis Superba- double pink  
 Festiva Maxima- double white  
 Kansas- double red

Karl Rosenfeld- double cherry red  
 Mons. Jules Elie- double pink  
 Paul M. Wild- double ruby red  
 Sarah Bernhardt- double rose pink  
 Shirley Temple- Blush to white