

DIRECTIONS FOR PLANTING PEONIES

SITE SELECTION AND SOIL PREPARATION

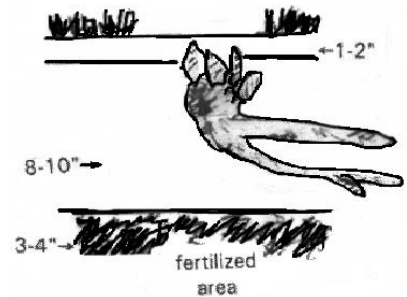
Choose a sunny spot (at least 6 hours daily) with good ventilation and well-drained soil. Spacing should be about 36" to provide air movement around the plant. Loosen the soil sufficiently deep and wide to accommodate the peony root (1 foot deep and 2 feet around). If your soil is heavy to clay, mix in some potting soil or well broken down compost. Mix a handful of tulip/daffodil fertilizer into the bottom of the hole, then put in some soil to prevent the roots from coming in direct contact with the fertilizer. Note: Bone meal and potash may be used in place of commercial fertilizer. (In the Willamette Valley and other areas with acid soils, add 1 cup of dolomite lime.) Do not use Miracle-Gro as it is instant release instead of slow release.

DO NOT PLANT PEONIES WHERE CASORON HAS BEEN USED!

PLANTING BARE ROOT PEONIES

Plant your peonies as soon as possible after receiving them in Autumn. The roots will keep for a period of time in the original packing materials if you are unable to plant them immediately, just keep them in a cool location out of the sun. Lay the root piece in the prepared location with the eyes pointing upward and cover it with soil. Some eyes may be pointing the wrong direction but will reorient themselves to point to the sun, so if some are pointing down don't be concerned. The peony 'eyes' are the growing points, which become the stems and flowers in the Spring. The 'eyes' are white, red or pink in color and look like the tip of your little finger. There should be only 2" of soil over the 'eyes' even in cold climates. If you are in a wet climate, you may want to plant shallow and hill the soil up on top of the plant to make sure the water will drain away from the plant. Water it enough to settle the soil and remove air pockets. If it's a dry Autumn you may need to water to keep sufficient moisture for the peony to thrive.

Note: None of the plant will be visible above ground until it begins to grow in early spring, so you may want to mark the spot where it is planted. You should only expect 1 or 2 stems the first spring. The number of stems should double the next year and the plant should be quite full by the third season. You may also want to view our 'Planting and Care' video on our web site: www.peonyparadise.com



ON-GOING CARE

During the summer we recommend a deep watering. Too much water can cause the root to rot, so don't overwater. In late October cut the peony stems at ground level and put the stems and foliage in the garbage or composter. Apply a handful of peony or bulb fertilizer twice per year: in the spring when growth begins and again in the autumn when you cut the foliage down. If botrytis (gray mold) is a problem in your area, contact your local garden center for control measures. Symptoms include sudden wilting of leaves, stems that rot off at ground level and buds that turn black. Garden sprays used to control black spot in roses can be applied at 7-10 day intervals from first emergence until bloom. Preen may be used for weed control in peony beds. Do not use Casoron around peonies. Check with your local garden center for instructions on chemical use.

Note: Peony growing points, called "eyes" should never be more than 2" below ground level.



ADELMAN
PEONY GARDENS