



Cricket Hill Garden



Snow Lotus Chinese tree peony, actual size flower (page 11)

Growers of Rare and Unusual Peonies

Catalog 17
\$2.00

Dear Gardener,

We continue to plant new varieties of peonies every year. Our elation at seeing these new flowers open for the first time matches the excitement we felt twenty-five seasons ago when we planted our first peonies here at Cricket Hill Garden. Without the support of our customers and fellow gardeners, the rocky hillside where we planted our first peonies would have never grown into the Peony Heaven that it is today. Your continued interest helps us to fulfill our goal: to offer you top quality specimens of select peony cultivars which have performed well for us over several seasons in our USDA zone 6a garden. In this catalog, you will find a fine selection of peonies, as well as detailed planting and care instructions on pages 17 and 18. It is our hope that you will save it as a reference.

As gardeners, we take responsibility for nurturing a little piece of our shared earth. In return for our care of the soil, we are rewarded with plants that delight our senses and provide us with holistic nourishment. We have long sought to combine our love of edible gardening and fruit growing with our business of delivering high quality peonies and sound growing advice to customers. We will be able to do so in the near future as we diversify our offerings at Cricket Hill Garden to include not just peonies but also a selection of unusual edible landscape plants.

If you are in the area, we hope to see you at Peony Heaven during our **Peony Festival from May 1st to mid-June**. We will keep our website updated with bloom information as well as special Peony Festival events. **Potted peonies are available for sale at our nursery beginning April 1st.**

Sign up on our website for our e-newsletter. It includes timely articles on care and cultivation, as well as subscriber-only specials offered periodically over the course of the season.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us, either by phone at **860-283-1042**, or by email at **kasha@treepeony.com**

Good growing,

*From Kasha, David, Daniel and Michael Furman
and all of the Crew at Cricket Hill Garden*



Peony Heaven

Our Guarantee

Our plants are guaranteed to be true to name and arrive to you in good condition. This is our responsibility as your supplier. As a gardener it is your job to see to the proper planting, mulching and regular watering of your new plant as detailed in our planting directions on pages 17-18. If your peony dies within its first season in the ground, contact us right away. We will try to determine the reason that the plant failed to thrive. If the peony died despite your best efforts and proper care, we will replace it. **Our customers have a success rate of 99% with our plants, and we are confident that you too will be pleased.**

When We Ship

We ship freshly dug bare-root peonies when they are dormant. Orders to USDA zones 4, 5, 6 and 7 are shipped in both the early spring and throughout fall. Orders to USDA zones 8 and 9 are sent in the late fall and winter. We are careful to match the shipping date to an appropriate planting time for your planting zone.

Tree Peonies (pages 3-11)

Tree peonies, *mudan* in Chinese, are long-lived deciduous woody shrubs native to China that grow well in USDA zones 4-9. There are several wild species, but the cultivated tree peony is botanically classified as *Paeonia*

suffruticosa. This general classification is further divided into "cultivar groups." The national flower of China, their mid- to late spring blossoms are unrivalled in size, color and fragrance. They are deer resistant and fairly drought tolerant once established. Tree peonies must be planted in well drained soil and receive 5-6 hours of sun in order to bloom well.



Intersectional Peonies (pages 12-13)

Intersectional peonies are hybrids between tree and herbaceous peonies which exhibit the best qualities of both. They grow well in USDA zones 4-9.

Herbaceous Peonies (pages 14-15)

There are over two dozen wild species of herbaceous peonies which grow over a wide range of Asia and Europe. The most common species is *Paeonia lactiflora*, which is native to China, where it is known as *shaoyao*.

These very hardy perennials (USDA zones 3-8) bloom from early to mid-spring. In the fall they die back to the ground. Herbaceous peonies must be planted in well-drained soil. Optimum growth is achieved when they are planted in the full sun.



See pages 17 and 18 for detailed planting and care instructions for all types of peonies.

About Peony Sizes

Tree peonies:

2-3 year old tree peony: 2 woody stems
4 year old tree peony: 3-4 woody stems

Both sizes have a proportional, well developed root system, usually measuring about 12-18" long.

Herbaceous peonies have 4-5 'eyes' (buds) and proportional roots.

Intersectional peonies have 4-5 'eyes' (buds) and proportional roots.

All of our peonies are field grown.

Central Plains Cultivar Group of Chinese Tree Peonies

中原牡丹 *Zhong Yuan Mu Dan*

The Central Plains cultivar group of Chinese tree peonies (pages 3-8) consists of varieties that originate from the area along the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow river in China. There are hundreds of named varieties in this cultivar group and at least three wild species of tree peony contribute to their diverse genetic heritage.

Peony culture has an long and vibrant history in the Central Plains region of China. The city of Luoyang was first noted for its tree peonies in the Tang dynasty (8th century CE). Heze, in Shandong Province, became an important center of peony growing for at least the past three hundred years. The tree peonies grown in these two cities have captivated Chinese poets, painters, emperors, farmers and lovers for more than an millennium.

Tree peonies in this group have flowers in a range of forms, colors, and fragrances. In our USDA zone 6a garden they bloom for three weeks, from early to late May. The bloom period stated in each variety description refers this time frame. Warmer USDA zones will bloom earlier. Colder zones will bloom later. Given proper care, tree peonies should begin to bloom when they are three or four years old. Flower and plant sizes given stated below describe mature plants (8-10 years old). All tree peonies are recommended for USDA zones 4-9. **See pages 17-18 for complete tree peony planting and care directions.**



Coral Terrace 珊瑚台 *Shan Hu Tai* (Zhaolou Peony Garden, 1970)

Vibrant pink-coral blossoms with each petal scalloped and ruffled. Forms a dense, 8" flower with some frosting to the edges of the petals. Delicately sweet, fragrant flowers face upwards. Plant blooms in the lotus form when young. A semi-spreading shrub 4' tall and 4' wide at maturity. Mid-season blooming tree peony. We are pleased to once again offer this perennial visitor favorite.

2-3 year old \$79 / 4 year old \$99



Flying Swallow in a Red Dress

飛燕紅裝 *Fei Yan Hong Zhuang* (Zhaolou Peony Garden, 1964)

Silver-red 8" flowers bloom in rose or anemone form. Darker veining and flares contrast with lighter colored petals, fragrance is sweet. Plant has a semi-spreading habit and will reach 4' tall and 4' wide at maturity. Mid-season bloomer. Named for the Han Dynasty dancer who so enchanted the Emperor Cheng with her beauty that she rose to become Empress of China.

2-3 year old \$79 / 4 year old \$99



Guide to Flower Forms - In our text describing each flower, you will see a small drawing of a flower form. The Chinese have classified their flowers according to these forms, and we have reproduced these seven shapes to describe the flowers in our catalog. This is the mature form of the flower.

Often it needs a few growing seasons to develop. Plants recently transplanted may exhibit simpler or smaller flowers than the true, mature form.



Single



Lotus
Semi-Double



Rose or
Chrysanthemum
Semi-Double



Anemone
Double



Golden Circle
Double



Thousand Petal
or Crown
Double



Globular
Double



Beauty Yu Ji in a Red Dress 虞姬艳装 *Yu Ji Yan Zhuang* (Zhaolou Peony Garden, 1980)

Fabulous, sweetly scented flowers in a vibrant shade of reddish-pink. Rose form blossoms reach 8". Spreading growth habit, grows to 4' tall and 4' wide. Late blooming variety.

This flower is named for Yu Ji, the consort of the general Xiang Yu who sought to become emperor of China after the collapse of the Qin dynasty in 209 BCE. She accompanied him on his campaign against rival armies, but took her own life when it appeared that her lover's cause was lost. Today she is remembered as a great beauty who sacrificed everything for love.

2-3 year old \$69 / 4 year old \$89



Multi-Colored Butterfly 花蝴蝶 *Hua Hu Die* (Luoyang city, classical cultivar)

Flowers, reaching 8", face upwards with a delicate spiced fragrance. Petals in many shades of pink and dark maroon contrast with the center golden stamens. Plant has an erect habit and will grow to 3.5' tall and 3' wide. Mid-season blooming tree peony.

2-3 year old \$79



Necklace with Precious Pearls

璎珞宝珠 *Ying Luo Bao Zhu* (Luoyang city, classical cultivar)

Double form, 6-7" flowers with a dense sweet fragrance, face upwards and to the side. Silvery-red buds open to medium-pink double blossoms with silver-pink frosting. It is one of the most fragrant Chinese tree peonies we grow! Flowers will bloom as semi-double when plants are younger and in full double form as it matures. This semi-dwarf variety reaches 3' tall and 3' wide. Late season bloomer.

2-3 year old \$79 / 4 year \$99



Black Dragon Holds a Splendid Flower 烏龍捧盛 *Wu Long Peng Sheng* (Luoyang city, classical cultivar)

Semi-double to anemone form, 8" fragrant flowers face upwards. On mature blossoms, light cream carpels often appear in striking contrast to the very dark magenta-pink petals. Grows quickly, reaching 5' tall and 5' wide. Early season blooming. Very floriferous, a historic variety ideal for beginning a peony collection.

2-3 year old \$69 / 4 year old \$89



*"My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece."
~ Claude Monet*



Big Deep Purple 大棕紫 *Da Zong Zi* (Luoyang city, classical cultivar)

Deep violet-red toned, rose form flowers, 8-10" in diameter, are upward facing. Fast growing with numerous fragrant blooms. Growing 3.5' tall and 3.5' wide at maturity. This classical variety is a mid-season bloomer.

2-3 year old \$69/ 4 year old \$89



Luoyang Red 落陽紅 *Luoyang Hong* (Luoyang city, classical cultivar)

Magenta-red flowers are upward facing, 8-10" with a light, sweet fragrance. A fast growing plant, it will reach 4.5' tall and 4' wide at maturity. Mid-season blooming. Very vigorous and easy to bloom, highly recommended.

This famous variety comes from Luoyang, the ancient city in Henan Province that was the capital of China during many dynasties. For over a millennium, Luoyang has been a major center of peony cultivation. Today the main downtown boulevard is planted with enormous specimens of *Luoyang Red*.

2-3 year old \$79 / 4 year old \$99



Color of Eternity 萬世生色 *Wan Shi Sheng Se* (Zhaolou Peony Garden, 1966)

Enormous pink flowers with lavender and violet inner tones are deeply fragrant. On a mature plant, blossoms reach 10". The Chinese classify this flower as a "thousand-petal" double form, though we once counted and only found 347! A vigorous grower, spreads to 3' tall and 4' wide. Very floriferous late season bloomer.

4 year old \$99

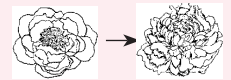


Luster of Jade

景玉 *Jing Yu* (Sun, 1978)

A beauty that will perfume the whole garden. Luscious, full double white flowers with light pink tones are 6-7", blooming on a sturdy plant that reaches just 3' tall and 3' wide. Early blooming cultivar introduced by horticulturist Sun Jingyu of the Heze Flower Garden.

2-3 year old \$79 / 4 year old \$99



Blue Sapphire 藍寶石 *Lan Bao Shi* (Zhaolou Peony Garden, 1975)

The 7-8" flowers open with a soft purple pearlescent luminosity. The petals change to soft white, with purple-magenta flares at the center. Blooms range in shape from rose to chrysanthemum, with a delicate fragrance. Fast growing, and very early season blooming. Semi-dwarf tree peony ideal for smaller gardens, reaches just 2.5' tall and 3' wide.

2-3 year old \$79 / 4 year old \$99



Snow White Princess 白雪公主 *Bai Xue Gong Zhu* (Heze city, classical cultivar)

This luminous, pure white flower possesses a sweet fragrance and elegant form. A vigorous grower with 8", upward facing blossoms. Mid-season blooming tree peony reaches 3.5' tall and 4' wide at maturity.

2-3 year old \$79 / 4 year old \$99



Phoenix White

鳳丹白 *Feng Dan Bai*
(Anhui Province, classical cultivar)

Large 8-9" flowers face upwards, floating like silk on top of the leaves, with a dense sweet fragrance. Plants grow rapidly and are very erect, reaching 5' tall and 4' wide at ten years old. This cultivated variety of the wild species *Paeonia ostii* is a very versatile garden plant that is adaptable to harsh growing conditions. Planted in shadier areas, this variety will still grow and flower well. Early season blooming.

Phoenix White has been commercially cultivated for at least 500 years in central China for its roots, which are used in traditional Chinese medicine.

2-3 year old \$79 / 4 year old \$99

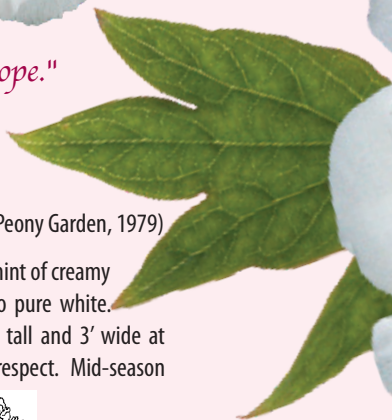


*"Where flowers bloom so does hope."
~Lady Bird Johnson*

Fragrant Jade 香玉 *Xiang Yu* (Zhaolou Peony Garden, 1979)

Densely fragrant 7-8" flowers open with a hint of creamy pink which changes within a few days to pure white. Vigorous and compact grower, reaches 3' tall and 3' wide at maturity. A worthy garden plant in every respect. Mid-season bloomer.

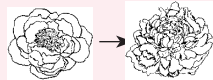
2-3 year old \$79 / 4 year old \$99



Coiled Dragon in the Mist 煙龍紫珠盤 *Yan Long Zi Zhu Pan* (Heze city, classical cultivar)

Upward facing, flowers bloom in the lotus form when young. As the plant matures, blossoms will be double form, 8" in diameter, and densely fragrant. Petals are very dark and lustrous. Semi-spreading habit, grows to 3.5' tall and 4' wide, mid-season blooming. This is one of the fastest growing and most freely flowering of the so-called "black" varieties, which are slower growing than other colors of tree peonies.

2-3 year old \$79 / 4 year old \$99



Gold Sand in a Black Ocean

黑海沙金 *Hei Hai Sha Jin*
(Luoyang city, classical cultivar)

Golden pollen grains dust the surface of these maroon-red, fragrant 8" flowers. A very vigorous mid-season bloomer, with flowers held well above the foliage. Plant has a semi-spreading habit and will reach 3.5' tall and 4' wide at maturity.

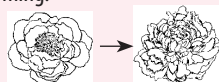
2-3 year old \$79 / 4 year old \$99



Champion Fragrance 冠群芳 *Guan Qun Fang* (Heze Flower Garden, 1971)

Blooms in the semi-double to golden-circle double form. This is a strong grower that we have tested for many years. It's among the best dark maroon tree peonies. We love its lustrous petals and sweet perfume. Grows quickly, reaching 3.5' tall and 4' wide. Mid-season blooming.

2-3 year old \$79 / 4 year old \$99



*"I'd rather have roses on my table than diamonds on my neck."
~Emma Goldman*

Japanese Tree Peonies

日本の牡丹 *Nihon no Botan*

Tree peonies are not native to Japan. They first introduced there as a medicinal plants by wayfaring Buddhist monks in the 8th century CE. Over the next few hundred years tree peonies were planted in temple and court gardens as ornamental plants, but it was not until the 18th and 19th centuries that their cultivation became widespread. As in China, tree peonies in Japan carry significant cultural symbolism. When depicted in visual art and poetry, tree peonies represent good fortune as well as a righteous and noble spirit.

The majority of Japanese tree peonies share a number of characteristics. They bloom later in the tree peony season, after the Central Plains Chinese tree peonies. Flowers tend to be large (8-10" in diameter) and bloom in an open semi-double form. Blossoms are usually upward facing and though often less fragrant than Chinese tree peonies, the vibrant colors and large size make them outstanding garden plants.



Peonies at Hyakken (1866), by Utagawa Shigenobu.
This woodblock print depicts a tree peony in a famous Tokyo park.

*The peony cut,
nothing remains
in the garden.
~Yosa Buson*

Muramatsu Cherry 村松櫻 *Muramatsu Zakura* (Higuchi, 1955)

Large 8-10" flowers in a perfect shade of soft pink. Classical semi-double form flowers bloom above the foliage making for an excellent display. Strong growing variety, reaches 3.5' tall and 3.5' wide.

4 year old \$99



King of Flowers 花王 *Kao* (Shimane Prefecture, 1932)

Vibrant reddish-purple flowers can measure up to 10", in a ruffled double form. In addition to their giant size, these flowers are also remarkable for their dense, spicy-sweet fragrance, a rare trait in Japanese tree peonies. This is a vigorous grower with very strong reddish stems that have no problem holding the large flowers upright. An attractive, well balanced shrub which reaches 3.5' tall and 3.5' wide.

4 year old \$99



Northwest Cultivar Group of Chinese Tree Peonies

西北紫斑牡丹 *Xi Bei Zi Ban Mu Dan*

These tree peonies originate from Gansu Province in Northwest China. This area is extremely arid, with high heat in the summer and bone chilling lows during the winter. This seemingly inhospitable terrain is the native habitat of *Peaonia rockii*, one of the several wild species of tree peonies. Also known as Gansu peonies, plants of this cultivar group are the result of crosses between *P. rockii* and other species of tree peonies.

Almost all tree peonies with *P. rockii* heritage share several outstanding characteristics: vigorous, tall growing, strong stems, and finely cut foliage. These plants are drought resistant, tolerant of moderate shade, and can withstand cold winters. We have had reports that they perform well even in heat and drought stricken parts of the county.

Most spectacular are the flowers, which are almost uniformly large, fragrant, and visually striking with deep maroon or magenta flares. A photo cannot convey the vibrancy of these peonies in bloom.

All *rockii* tree peonies are late season bloomers, coinciding with the bloom of the Japanese tree peonies. This is after the bloom of the Central Plains varieties of Chinese tree peonies. In our USDA zone 6a garden the *rockii* tree peonies are usually at peak bloom from the last week of May through the first week of June.

We are pleased to offer select varieties of *P. rockii* tree peonies introduced by Chen Dezhong of the Peace Peony Garden. This renowned peony garden and research center is located outside of Lanzhou city, in China's northwestern Gansu province. For almost fifty years Mr. Chen has worked on improving the native *P. rockii*. We grow many of his varieties in our garden and find them to be some of the best performing and most admired tree peonies.



Purple Butterfly in the Wind

紫蝶迎風 *Zi Die Ying Feng* (Chen, 1994)

Lotus form flowers reach 8-10" and are held well above the foliage. Flowers have a dense, sweet fragrance. A customer told us that a single cut flower perfumed an entire room! Expect this tree peony to grow to 5' tall and 5' wide. This peony's evocative name aptly captures its appearance in bloom, which is like a butterfly dancing with the warm breeze on a spring day. Butterflies are also symbolic of lovers in traditional Chinese culture.

3 year old \$99



Black Tornado

黑旋風 *Hei Xuan Feng* (Chen, 1994)

Deep velvety reddish-purple flowers with ebony flares, 8-9" in diameter, in an open lotus form. Borne on strong stems, blossoms have a light, spicy-sweet fragrance. Expect this freely blooming plant to grow to 5' tall and 4' wide.

3 year old \$99



Snow Lotus 雪蓮 *Xue Lian* (Gansu Province, classical cultivar)

Elegant, lotus form flowers are 8-10" and very fragrant. The iridescent white petals are strikingly set off by the deep maroon flares at their base. Plant blooms quickly with an upright habit. Will reach 6' tall and 5' wide at maturity.

This variety is a cultivated cousin of the wild species tree peony *Paeonia rockii* indigenous to Gansu Province and surrounding areas in northwest China. *P. rockii* is named after the American botanical adventurer, Joseph Rock, who introduced this tree peony to the West in the 1920s. Since this plant first came to the attention of American gardeners ninety years ago, it has been highly prized and sought after, just as it has been in its native land for centuries.

3 year old \$99



Pink Louts
粉荷 *Fen He*
(Gansu Province, classical cultivar)

Soft pink petals radiate from dark center flares. Flowers, 8-10", have a sweet fragrance. Mid-season blooming *rockii*. A very attractive landscape plant, grows to 4.5' tall and 4' wide. This peony is traditionally grown around the cities of Lanzhou, Lintao and Linxia in China's northwestern Gansu Province.

3 year old \$99



*"A garden is a delight to the eye
and a solace for the soul."
~ Saadi*

Pink Xi Shi 粉西施 *Fen Xi Shi* (Gansu Province, classical cultivar)

Fragrant, light pink 8" blossoms in a full double form. Flowers have a dense, sweet fragrance. Vigorous grower, to 5' tall and 4' wide. Mid-season bloomer. A historic cultivar traditionally grown around the cities of Linxia and Lintao in Gansu Province in Northwest China. This tree peony is named for Xi Shi (pronounced *SHEE-shur*), one of the Four Great Beauties of ancient China who lived in the State of Yue during the Spring and Autumn Period in the 5th century BCE.

3 year old \$99



Intersectional Peonies

The Japanese nurseryman Toichi Itoh was the first to succeed in hybridizing tree peonies with herbaceous peonies. His work astounded the peony world and inspired other breeders to try crosses of their own. From this new hybrid peony group, a vibrant palette of colors emerged. A few American hybridizers have been exceptionally successful in making these difficult crosses. We are pleased to offer a selection of these unique American hybrid peonies.

Intersectional peonies possess many attributes which make them highly desirable landscape plants. The leaves and flower forms resemble those of tree peonies, while the growth habit is similar to that of herbaceous peonies. Flowers are held upright on top of the bush and never require any kind of support. In the fall, after the frost, intersectional peonies are cut back to ground level, and come back larger each spring.

Most bloom with the mid- to late-season herbaceous peonies, usually peaking in our garden in the first week of June. On average they will grow to 2.5' tall and 3' wide at maturity and have been proven to thrive in USDA zones 4-9. Intersectional peonies require well-drained soil and full sun to thrive.

See pages 17 and 18 for complete growing and planting instructions.



Old Rose Dandy (Lanning, 1993)

Robust grower with glossy dark green foliage. Single form flowers in a 'old rose' color that darkens as the blossoms age. This variety is the result of a complex cross, with both *P. lutea* and *P. suffotica* in its heritage. Grows to 2.5' tall and 3' wide.

4-5' eye' plant \$89



Scarlet Heaven (Anderson, 1999)

Flowers measure up to 8". They open a brilliant scarlet and change to deep wine red within a few days. Blossoms have a light, spicy fragrance. This is a fast growing plant, very much resembles a tree peony. Grows to 2.5' tall and 3' wide.

4-5' eye' plant \$89



Mature intersectional peony in full bloom.

Garden Treasure (Hollingsworth, 1984)

Golden yellow blossoms are 7-8" with light scarlet flares in the center. Flowers have a notable sweet fragrance. Mature plants are long blooming, with flowers opening over the span of two weeks. It is a fast growing plant with a spreading habit and is very floriferous. Grows to 2.5' tall and 3' wide.

4-5'eye' plant \$99



Visit to the Hermit Chu

*Moss covered paths between scarlet peonies,
Pale jade mountains fill your rustic windows.*

*I envy you, drunk with flowers;
Butterflies swirling in your dreams.*

- Qian Qi



Cora Lousie(Anderson, 1986)

Lightly scented blossoms open lavender and soon fade to pure white. Semi-double form with dark reddish-purple center. Petals are slightly ruffled, and look as if they are made of heavy satin. Flowers are 8", and held upright on strong stems. This variety grows to 2.5' tall and 3' wide at maturity.

4-5'eye' plant \$99



Bartzella (Anderson, 1986)

Arguably the most famous yellow peony of any type, 7-9" heavy semi-double flowers have a light lemon scent. This plant is a very strong grower, notable for its upright and symmetrical habit. Size at maturity is 3' tall and 3' wide.

Since its debut, this peony has become one of the most sought-after ornamental plants in the world.

4-5'eye' plant \$99



Herbaceous Peonies

Grandma's favorite flower, long an valuable ornamental and medicinal plant in both Europe and East Asia. Flowers range in size from 6-8". Average plant height at maturity varies, see individual cultivar descriptions for details. Plant in well-drained soil with full sun. In our USDA zone 6a garden they bloom from late May to mid-June. Herbaceous peonies are recommended for USDA zones 3-8.

See pages 17 and 18 for complete growing and planting instructions.

All herbaceous peonies are \$35 and have 4-5 'eyes' (buds) with proportional roots.



Minnie Shaylor
(Shaylor, 1919)



Several rows of fluffy crepe-like petals, opening to a clear light pink and fading to white. Good fragrance. Blooms mid-season on strong stems. Grows to 34" tall.



Elsa Sass (Sass, 1930)



A lovely white with slight pink tones. Stems strong, holding the beautiful bloom erect under all conditions. Fragrant blossoms possess a texture like velvet. Late blooming. Grows to 28" tall.



Coral Charm (Wissing, 1964)



Coral-peach, semi-double flowers reach 6-7". As flowers age, they fade to a subtle lemon yellow. Early blooming and growing 36" with very strong stems.



Coral 'n Gold
(Cousins-Klehm, 1981)

A vigorous hybrid with attractive cup-shaped coral blooms that hold contrasting thick golden stamens. Light, sweet fragrance. Early blooming with strong stems, growing to 34" tall.



Moonstone (Murawska, 1943)

Large 7-8" flowers. Blooms mid-season, opening with a blush of pink that mellows into the palest shade of iridescent pink. Blossoms carry a sweet perfume. Grows to 34" tall.





Roselette (Saunders, 1950)

An early blooming hybrid with three distinct species of *Paeonia* in its heritage. Well formed, delicately fragrant, 5-6" flowers in a light rose-pink. Erect habit and strong stems. Grows to 34" tall.



Love's Touch (Klehm, 1999)



Fragrant 5-6" flowers in a soft pink. Compact plant with glossy foliage makes an excellent addition to smaller gardens. Mid-season bloomer that grows to 26" tall.



Francios Ortegat (Parmentier, 1850)

Deep crimson full double flowers. Light, sweet fragrance. Blooms freely, late season. This classic French variety grows to 34" tall.



"Cultivators of the earth are the most virtuous and independent citizens."
~ Thomas Jefferson



Do Tell
(Auten, 1946)

Outer guard petals open a pale orchid pink, narrow inner petals are shades of dark pink, creating a very striking blossom. Fragrant, mid-season bloomer, strong stems, 32" tall at maturity.



Dragon's Nest
(Auten, 1933)

Bold red guard petals, with a bright tuft of yellow in the center. Fragrant, mid-season blooming with strong stems. Mature plant measure 32" tall.



Peony Growing Supplies

Neptune's Harvest Seaweed Liquid Fertilizer (2-3-1)

We recommend this product and have used it at Cricket Hill Garden for over two decades to provide a balance of nutrients and minerals for plant health and vigor. The 36 oz. size concentrate makes 36 gallons, enough to care for many peonies in a season. This organic fertilizer also produces great results for any ornamental or vegetable crop.

36 oz. bottle \$16.95



Azomite Soil Amendment

This rock powder contains 67 minerals beneficial for building superior soil. Named for the A to Z minerals it contains, we have found it very helpful in getting our plants to grow with greater vigor. Trace minerals are needed by mycorrhizal organisms in soil which transport nutrients to plant roots. Our peonies are more robust with larger and more colorful blooms when given *Azomite*. Recommended for all plants, including vegetables and fruit trees. Use ½ to 1 cup per specimen plant, or broadcast 1-2 lbs. per 10 square feet for general use.

4 lb. Bag \$12.00

Actinovate

An OMRI-listed organic fungicide with the beneficial bacteria *Streptomyces lydicus* as its active ingredient. When applied as a preventative, it controls many fungal problems including: *Botrytis*, *Pythophthora*, *Fusarium*, Powdery Mildew, and Late Blight. In a bad season, if left unchecked, any one of these fungi can do serious damage to peonies as well as many other ornamental and edible plants in the garden. *Actinovate* is effective once the ambient air temperature is above 40 degrees. Actinovate is a 100% water-soluble powder that can be applied through a hose-end sprayer, watering can or pump sprayer. Mix ½ tsp. powder per 1 gallon of water (package makes 36 gallons of concentrate).



20 gram packet \$13.95 (includes shipping)

2 oz. packet \$23.95 (includes shipping)

Root Control Bags

Also known as Smart Pots, these grow bags are made of a non-woven plastic fabric that looks like black felt. Fast draining and very durable containers. Root hairs that grow through the fabric are air-pruned. The main roots stay inside with a comfortable growing space. Bags are 12" wide x 16" deep. Tree peonies can be grown in this size for a few years without detriment to the roots. We've used them in our nursery for many years. See the **Learn** section of our website for container growing information.

12" x 16" Root Control Bag, 2 for \$13.50

Metal Impresso Tags

Peonies are very long-lived plants and need a durable marker in the garden. We recommend these long lasting, 1" x 3-3/8" aluminum tags over any other product we have tried. By pressing down and writing with a pen or pencil, you create a tag that will endure for years. The durable finish does not oxidize. Aluminum wire ties are included. **25 tags for \$9.50 (includes shipping)**



Garden Shade Umbrella

It will be back in stock soon. Check our website for updates or call us.

Peony Books

The Gardener's Peony by Martin Page

Our favorite reference book on peonies with details on species as well as cultivated varieties of tree and herbaceous peonies. This book has many photos and is full of information on the history and cultivation of peonies. Hardcover, 267 pages. **\$32.95**

The Garden Plants of China by Peter Valder

This sumptuous book surveys ornamental and edible garden plants native to China, particularly interesting for its discussion of the role of these plants in Chinese culture. Hardcover, 400 pages. **\$39.95**

The Gardens of China by Peter Valder

With 500 color photos and 390 pages this beautiful hardcover book transports you to famous gardens of China. Describes more than 200 gardens with information on their history and design. **\$47.95**

Suggested Peony References

Peony Rockii and Gansu Mudan by Will McLewin and Dezhong Chen (ISBN: 0961408839)

The only book available in English on Gansu or Northwest tree peony cultivars. Contains a very detailed, well illustrated register of hybrids introduced by Chen Dezhong of the Peony Peace Garden.

Web Project Paeonia (www.paeon.de/navigation/lit_2007.html)

Carsten Burkhardt's very comprehensive, well illustrated database of tree and herbaceous peony cultivars. An invaluable reference.

American Peony Society (www.americanpeonysociety.org)

Dedicated since 1903 to "promote cultivated peonies and foster studies to improve its worth as a garden plant." New members always welcome!



Peony Heaven Gift Certificates

The perfect gift for your favorite gardener.
Order any amount starting at \$35.00.

Peony Planting and Care

If you cannot plant your bare root peony right away, you should:

Check the packing bag for moisture; if it seems dry, add a bit of water to the coir (coconut fiber packing material). Keep roots wrapped right up to the moment of planting; hair roots quickly dry out when exposed to the air.

If necessary, keep plants in a cool dark place such as a garage or basement. Peonies can be stored this way for about a week after you receive them.

Site Selection: Please take a little time to prepare your planting area. In return, you will receive a lifetime of enjoyment. Peonies will absolutely not tolerate wet roots, so the soil must drain well; raised beds or slopes are well suited for peony cultivation. The soil pH should be in the range of 6.5-7.2. In many areas, this means adding ground limestone to raise the pH. It is best to have your soil pH tested so you know your baseline pH level. State Agriculture Experiment Stations generally perform a basic pH test free of charge. Amend your soil with the recommended amount of lime to raise the pH to at least 6.5.

Tree Peony Care: In 10 years, most tree peonies will grow to 4' tall x 4' wide. If planting a group of tree peonies, allow at least 4-5' between them. Do not plant closer than 8-10' from trees, where tree roots will compete with the peonies for nutrients and water. Small annuals, perennials, and bulbs may be interplanted, but do not overcrowd, and be sure to maintain good air circulation in the planting bed.

Choose a location with 5-6 hours of direct sun (morning sun and afternoon shade is ideal), or dappled sun all day. Full sun will make the flowers fade rapidly; full shade will result in weak and slow growth.

Planting: Dig a hole 2' wide x 2' deep for young peonies. Remove any interfering tree roots or rocks. We recommend adding 3-4 shovelfuls of compost and 1 cup full of lime (if the soil's pH is below 6.5). Mix these thoroughly with the native soil. You may also add 1-2 cups each of Azomite for calcium and other valuable micro-nutrients, and soft rock phosphate for slow release phosphorus. Backfill the hole a little bit to create a small mound at the bottom of the hole. Place the peony in the hole and drape the roots over this soil mound. For tree peonies, continue to fill the planting hole until the crown of the plant is covered with 2-3" of soil. Cover all pink or white shoots emerging from the crown. Water in your plant to prevent the formation of air pockets around the roots. **We mark the recommended planting depth, 2-3" above the crown of the plants, with red tape. Be sure to remove the tape when planting.**



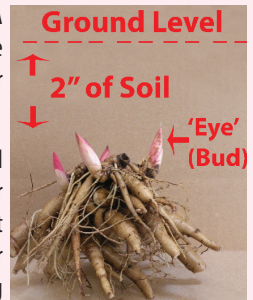
Watering: Tree peonies need water in spring when they leaf out, and to sustain growth during the summer months. If weekly rainfall is less than 1-2", water tree peonies deeply twice a week, 2 gallons each time. **Do not keep the soil constantly wet, this will suffocate the roots and eventually kill the plant.**

Once established, trees peonies are somewhat drought tolerant. Climates of hot summer temperatures with little or no rain at all will need more attention to watering than those areas that get regular rainfall.

NOTE: Droopy leaves in the first warm days of spring are the plant's natural response to help conserve water. You will know this is the cause of the limp leaves if the plant recovers in the evening or early the next morning. If soil around the base of the plant has moisture, do not water.

Herbaceous & Intersectional Peony Care: For herbaceous and intersectional peonies, allow about 3' between plantings. Choose a planting area with full sun; at least six hours of direct sun is a minimum for good growth and flowering on herbaceous and intersectional peonies. Use care with any interplanting and do not overcrowd. **Planting and soil preparation are the same as for tree peonies.**

For herbaceous and intersectional peonies in USDA zones 3-7, plant so that the 'eyes' (buds) face upwards and are 2" beneath the soil. Planting deeper than 2" will inhibit the plants ability to flower well.



In USDA zones 8 and 9, plant 'eyes' nearly at the soil level so they may catch enough cold to fulfill their chilling requirement during the winter. To prevent desiccation, cover the 'eyes' with a very thin layer of mulch or soil. We do not recommend growing herbaceous peonies in zone 9, though we have heard from skilled gardeners who have had success growing them in cooler micro-climates.

In their first season in the ground, from bud emergence to late summer, water herbaceous and intersectional peonies once a week with 2 gallons of water only if there is less than 1" of rain per week. After the herbaceous and intersectional peonies have been in the ground for a year, they should only be watered when the top 3-4" of soil feels dry. If this is the case, soak with 2 gallons of water.

Fertilizing for all Types of Peonies: For optimum growth and vigor, we use organic methods. If your garden soil's pH is acidic, add 1 cup of lime around the drip line of the plant once a year. This is usually done in the fall, but can be done at anytime during the year. We fertilize at least once a month during the growing season (April to early August) with a compost tea or a fish/seaweed fertilizer such as *Neptune's Harvest* (page 16). Application rate is 1 oz. of concentrate to 1 gallon of water. Once a year, liberally spread organic compost around the drip line of an established plant. We also spread 3-4 cups of bone char, for phosphorus, an important element for flower production. Wood ash, for potassium, can be applied in the early spring, once new growth has turned green. Rock powders, like *Azomite* (page 16) supply a multitude of minerals to the soil. Application rate is 1 cup per plant, twice a year in spring and fall. Do not fertilize after late summer.

Our organic methods improve the health of the soil, but if you prefer a simpler method, you can apply an all purpose fertilizer formulated for bulbs. Apply this twice during the growing season; once in the early spring and again after the bloom. This is not as beneficial to the soil as applying compost.

Mulching: We mulch our peonies in order to suppress weeds, conserve moisture, enrich the soil, and for winter protection. Any organic mulch will do. During the growing season keep mulch away from the crown of the plant. Winter mulch can be heavier, 4-6" in cold climates.

Peony Pests and Diseases: All types of peonies are deer and gopher resistant.

Damp, cold spring weather can trigger outbreaks the *botrytis* fungus. The spores of this fungus can overwinter in both the soil and on the buds. We recommend using a broad spectrum organic fungicide like *Actinovate* (page 16). In wet years, it may be necessary to spray every two weeks from early spring until early summer. Cut off any diseased leaves or shoots and remove them from the garden.

Fungal problems can be greatly minimized by planting the peony in a suitable location and by cleaning up old foliage in the fall.

Peony Growth and Care Calendar

Peonies will not do well if totally neglected, but they will also do just fine with a minimum of care.

Early Spring: Peonies can be transplanted in the early spring before they start to leaf out. Once the leaves open, they resent being moved so time your planting with the dormant period.

For established plants, remove winter mulch as herbaceous shoots emerge from the soil and tree peony buds begin to sprout. Clean up any remaining peony leaves left from last season.

Now is a good time to prune away any dead wood on tree peonies. Crossed or crowded branches can also be pruned out to improve air circulation and improve plant vigor.

Spring through Bloom Period: As peonies set their new growth and prepare to flower, it is important that they receive enough water. If there are not regular rains, water deeply once a week. For larger flowers, add *Neptune's Harvest* fish-seaweed fertilizer to the water. This can also be used as a foliar feed applied with a sprayer. If fungus is a problem in your area, apply *Actinovate* once the air temperature is above 40 degrees and new growth is over 1". Repeat every two weeks until dry weather sets in. It can be mixed with *Neptune's Harvest* in a spray solution.

After Blooming: Deadhead your peonies; this redirects energy to next year's buds. This is especially important for young plants. Once your plants are older and well established, you may want to try your hand at raising peonies from seed. To do so, leave some seed pods on the plant to mature. See our website for instructions on raising peonies from seed.

Summer: Fertilize peonies after they bloom (see page 17). Watering once a month with a dilution of *Neptune's Harvest* will promote next year's bud growth. In cases of extreme heat and drought, established tree peonies need to be watered deeply at least twice a week. **For peonies in containers, water when dry.**

Fall: Remove leaves from tree peonies. **Do not cut** the woody branches of tree peonies which bear next spring's buds. Herbaceous and intersectional peonies are cut to the ground after the frost.

In USDA Zone 9, tree and intersectional peony leaves are trimmed off to force the plant into winter dormancy. See our website for more information on growing in this warmer zone.

If you are in an area with acidic soil, amend the soil around your peonies with ground limestone to raise the pH and use the mineral amendment *Azomite* to improve the soil. Dig in well-composted manure or other organic compost at the drip line around peonies.

Fall is a good time to transplant your peonies. Water-in thoroughly after transplanting. New transplants should be protected with 4-6" of mulch over the winter. See the **Learn** section of our website for tips on moving tree peonies as well as on dividing herbaceous peonies.



Early spring foliage.



Ripe tree peony bud.



Tree peonies in full bloom.



Tree peony seeds.



Tree peony in fall/winter dormancy.



Cricket Hill Garden

670 Walnut Hill Road Thomaston, CT 06787

Tel. 860-283-1042 Fax 860-283-5508

www.treepeony.com



Design Services

Let us help you plant the perfect peony garden. We can help you select the right grouping of plants to maximize your bloom time as well as advise on site selection, planting layout and soil amendments. Drawing on our decades of gardening experience in New England, we can devise combinations of companion plants for your unique peony garden. Depending on the time of year, we are available for on-site consultations. Please contact Kasha Furman (kasha@treepeony.com) or see our website for details.

Professional Sales

We always encourage garden designers to use peonies in their landscapes. Professional garden designers and landscapers should contact us for volume availability and discounts.

Privacy Policy

We appreciate that our customers place great trust in us when ordering and take responsibility to safeguard this sensitive information. We use a Secure Server (SSL) for collecting personal and credit card information when ordering online and protect the security of this information. We respect your privacy, and will always honor your request to have your personal information removed from our database.

In order to grow our company, we sometimes trade postal mailing lists with other responsible garden businesses whose quality products may be of interest to you. Please let us know if you do not want us to share your mailing information. We never trade email addresses. You can always opt out of receiving our email or postal mail at any time.

Ordered by:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____

(required for delivery)

Email _____

Ship to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____

(required for delivery)

Email _____

QTY	NAME OF PLANT	PRICE	TOTAL

Shipping & Handling
 \$1-\$60 --- \$12.95
 \$61-\$150 --- \$14.95
 \$151-\$400 --- 10% of Order
 \$401-\$1000 --- 8% of Order
 \$1000 and up --- 7% of Order
 Shipped Ground UPS

Total Merchandise	
Shipping, Handling	
Subtotal	
6.35% Sales Tax (CT Only)	
Total Due	

**Shipped UPS Ground - 48 states
AK and HI - sent U.S. Priority Mail**

Payment Methods: We accept checks, money orders and all major credit cards. Please note that credit cards are billed at time of order to reserve plants.

Credit Card

Credit card security code

Expiration Date (month and year)

Signature (for credit card pay) _____



Cricket Hill Garden

670 Walnut Hill Road Thomaston, CT 06787

www.treepeony.com



Peony and Cat (circa 1100 CE), Unknown Chinese artist.



**E-newsletter subscribers receive exclusive offers.
Sign-up now at treepeony.com!**



This catalog was printed with soy based inks on paper with 10% recycled content.



Peony Heaven Cutting Collection

Admired by our visitors, but too few to sell as named varieties, we offer three or five herbaceous peonies as a group priced at substantial savings. We will give you a variety of colors and shapes—our choice, all are beautiful! Many of us have devoted a section of our garden for cut flowers. Herbaceous peonies make an ideal addition to such a garden.

Three 4-5 'eye' plants \$59 / Five 4-5 'eye' plants \$99

www.treepeony.com

860 283-1042

Visit Peony Heaven

Every year we add new varieties to our 7 acre terraced display garden of 400+ named cultivars of tree, herbaceous and intersectional peonies. We are open from April 1st for sales of potted plants. **Come to our Peony Festival from May 1st to mid-June, Tuesday—Sunday, 10-4pm.** Flowering time varies, see details on our website or updated bloom times and special events.

