

## Peony

Herbaceous peonies are an old-fashioned favorite that are easy to grow and often live 50 years or more. These shrub-like plants grow to 3-4' tall and wide. Large, full double-flowering peonies may be the most popular, but several other forms are available, including single, anemone, and semidouble, in colors ranging from pinks, reds, white and even yellow.



The best time to plant peonies is in early fall — September and October are ideal. Plant in full sun in a fertile, well-drained site. Planting depth is critical to flowering. The “eyes” at the top of the roots should be planted about 1½ inches below the soil surface; if planted deeper the plants will not flower. It may take 2-3 years for the plants to flower after transplanting as they establish their extensive root system. After the leaves die back in fall, cut the plant to the ground to control diseases.

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## Additional Resources

### Peony

- Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheet HYG-1241-94, *Growing Peonies*, at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/1000/1241.html>

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