

Tips for Success

Water: Once you have gotten your roots planted give them a generous watering. Throughout the fall and winter, if there is not adequate precipitation, give them water once or twice a week. They like to stay hydrated but not soggy. Once growth occurs in the spring they can handle more precipitation without fear of getting rot.

When to Expect Flowers: If planted in the autumn, you can expect your new peonies to begin producing flowers the following spring. Typically if planted in the springtime, they will flower the 2nd year; however, their first year in bloom is not indicative of their potential blooming power. They take 2-3 years to reach their potential, but once they are established, they are known to bloom like clockwork at the same time each year for decades on end.

Staking: Garden peonies will often produce huge flowers that can weigh the stems down. You don't need to stake them, but if you find the flowers nodding down, you may elect to stake them to keep them more upright. It's the gardener's choice.

My Roots are slow to come up: Make sure that you did not plant them too deep. Pull out one and compare to the root picture inside this guide for a reference and to make sure they were not planted with the top side up. They also need to be covered with only two to three inches of soil.

Garden Peonies: Beloved for their voluptuous flowers that are deliciously fragrant, these long-lived perennials will be a part of your life for a very long time. There is a longstanding tradition of taking garden peonies with you when you move from home to home because these beauties live for decades and create wonderful memories with your family. Be sure to cut a few flowers to bring inside and enjoy their color and fragrance.



Roberta's Gardens

PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



GENERAL GROWING GUIDE

Images shown may not be representative of your sets specific colors.

Garden Peonies

Paeonia lactiflora

We aren't happy if you aren't happy. If you have any questions regarding your order please call us at **1-765-525-4065** during the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm EST.

You can email questions to us at: customerservice@robertasinc.com.

If your bulbs, cuttings, etc. do not sprout, or your plant dies within one year from the date of shipment, we will send you a replacement free of charge. We cannot accept responsibility for losses due to extreme weather or neglect. Simply call us at the above toll tree number or fill out the plant replacement form on our website at RobertasUniqueGardens.com.

Roberta's will replace it with a similar or comparable plant at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will ship the following year.

Perennials



Roberta's Unique Gardens

P.O. Box 368, Waldron, IN 46182

Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 4:30PM EST

RobertasUniqueGardens.com

 @robertasgardens  Roberta's Unique Gardens

Quick Reference

 **Plant Type:** Perennial

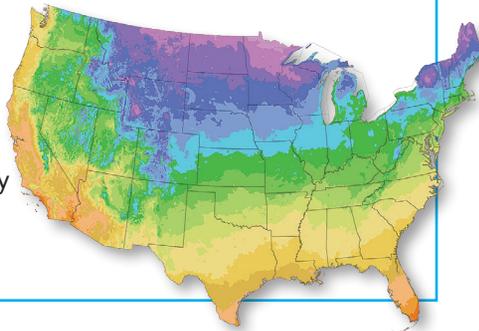
 **Light/Sun:** Full to Partial Sun

 **Mature Height:** 36-40"

 **Mature Spread:** 24-36"

 **Bloom Time:** Late Spring to Early Summer, by second season

 **USDA Hardiness Zones:** 3 to 8



Plant Caretaking

Upon Arrival: Please take roots out of the box immediately and remove any shipping materials from around the plants. Plant as soon as possible, but if storage is required, you may keep them in the refrigerator for up to 3 weeks.

Planting Depth & Spacing: Dig a hole about 12" wide and deep enough to easily place the entire root in the hole and cover with 1-2" of soil. Space about 2-3' next to one another in the garden.

Potted Plants: Peonies often perform better directly in the garden, however you may plant them in large containers if needed. You may plant one bare root in an 18-24" container. They like to be planted in a permanent location and have been known to live for over 50 years. They do not like to be buried too deeply. Though slow to establish top growth, you can be assured they are developing a deep, substantial root system.

Soil Preparation: They need a site with soil that is well-draining and will receive about 6 hours of sunlight a day. Amend heavy soils with potting mix and then add a 1-2 inch layer of mulch after planting.

Watering: To determine if your plant needs water, put your finger in the top of the soil and if the top inch is dry, it is time to water. Typically they can take water every 5 days or so if there is no precipitation. They resent soggy conditions so be sure not to let them sit in water too long.

Fertilizer: Use Roberta's Bounty a couple weeks after planting and then once or twice a month all summer long.

Pet Considerations: Ensure your pets do not consume plants.

Where to Plant: They love a sunny location that drains well. They are fantastic in flower beds, planted in a row, or at a corner where they will be the showpiece.

Planting Steps

Step 1 Remove plastic bag or sleeve from around the bulbs and discard any packing materials. If necessary, you may store bareroots in the refrigerator for up to 3 weeks.

Step 2 These clumps have roots radiating from a central point called the crown. Plant the clumps with the roots facing downward and buds or "eyes" upward. Otherwise place them on any side, and they will grow fine.

Step 3 Peony roots like well-draining soil, so amend any heavy clay soils with potting mix. Dig a hole about 12" wide and deep enough so that you can easily place the entire bare root in the hole and cover with 1-2" of soil. Place the root in the hole so that the buds are pointing up.

Step 4 Fill in area around the planted root with soil or potting mix. Water in your newly planted root well. Throughout the autumn and winter, water 5-7 days, if there is no precipitation, to ensure that roots stay moist, but not soggy. If the conditions are too wet the roots will rot.

Step 5 Add a layer of mulch or compost on top of your planted peony to help retain moisture and keep out weeds.

Transplant into the garden or containers as soon as evening temperatures stay above 40F. Dig holes the width of the root ball and deep enough so that the original top of the soil is flush with the new soil line. Water the new location before and after planting your plant. This will help the young roots stay hydrated. Once you've placed your plant in the hole, fill in the rest of the hole with extra soil or potting mix, ensuring the entire root system is covered with soil.

