

## 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 spring, you can expect your new peonies to begin producing flowers the following spring. 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.

**Plant Care after Flowers have finished:** You may cut off old flowers whenever you like. Keep the foliage and the rest of the plant in tact until you see the foliage start to yellow or wilt the following autumn. At this point cut your plant back to about 3 inches. This will encourage fresh, healthy growth the next spring.

**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.



# PHILLIP WATSON | *Designs*

PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



## Sorbet Peonies

*Paeonia lactiflora*

### Phillip Watson Designs is fulfilled by Roberta's Inc.

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](mailto: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 free number or fill out the plant replacement form on our website at [RobertasUniqueGardens.com](http://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.

"Magic isn't so much  
what you create,  
it's what you notice."

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Perennials

## Quick Reference

 **Plant Type:** Perennial

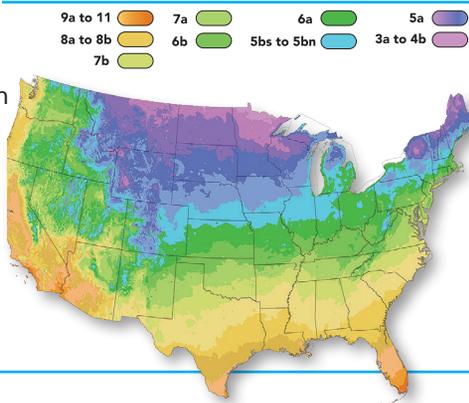
 **Light/Sun:** Full to Partial Sun

 **Mature Height:** 3-4'

 **Mature Spread:** 2-3'

 **Bloom Time:** Late Spring, 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.

**Soil Preparation:** Bulbs 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.

**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.

**Pet Considerations:** Ensure your pets do not consume plants.

**Fertilizer:** Use PWD Time Release Fertilizer a couple weeks after planting.

**Pruning:** Cut away spent flower as low as possible down the stem. Leave the foliage in tact in the garden for the summer so that they can absorb the sun's rays. In autumn the foliage will start to yellow. This is the time to cut your peonies back to about 3 inches above the surface of the ground.

## 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** 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 3** 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 4** Add a layer of mulch or compost on top of your planted peony to help retain moisture and keep out weeds.

