



ITOH PEONY CARE

LIGHT

Itoh, or intersectional, peonies combine herbaceous and tree-peony parentage. Give them full sun for best bloom; light afternoon shade is acceptable. Allow generous space for a broad, mature clump. Follow the cultivar label for height, spread and winter hardiness.

WATER

Water deeply after planting and check regularly through the first growing season. Once established, water during extended dry weather. Keep the root zone moderately moist without saturation. Avoid wetting foliage repeatedly and do not place the crown where winter water collects.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use fertile, well-drained garden soil. Set the uppermost crown eyes just below the soil surface, generally no deeper than 1 to 2 inches; follow the grower's instructions for the particular root division. Do not use deep graft planting instructions intended for tree peonies.

FEEDING

Amend poor soil before planting and use fertilizer modestly if needed. Follow label rates and keep fertilizer away from buds and stems. Excess nitrogen encourages foliage rather than flowers. Do not bury the crown with repeated additions of compost or mulch.

SEASONAL CARE

Deadhead after flowering and keep healthy leaves until they die back. Remove dead foliage in fall. On the short woody stem bases, retain any sound, visible buds and cut above them rather than cutting blindly through the base. Remove clearly dead stem portions as growth resumes in spring.

HELPFUL TIPS

Itoh peonies usually have sturdy stems, though individual plants may need support. They are long-lived and do not need routine division; move only when necessary, preferably in early fall. New plants can need time to settle before blooming strongly. Good air circulation and removal of diseased debris reduce foliage problems.