



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

GARDEN PEONY CARE

LIGHT

Garden peonies flower best with at least six hours of direct sun daily. Light afternoon shade is tolerated, but deep shade limits bloom. Choose an open position away from strong tree-root competition. Allow space for the cultivar's mature width and good air circulation.

WATER

Water thoroughly after planting and during dry periods while roots establish. Thereafter, soak deeply during prolonged dry spells rather than sprinkling a little every day. Keep moisture moderate and avoid waterlogged soil. Direct water to the ground to help keep foliage dry.

SOIL & PLANTING

Provide fertile, well-drained soil. For bare roots, set the pink growth buds, or eyes, about 1 to 2 inches below the finished soil surface. Do not bury an established potted crown deeper. Planting too deeply and piling mulch over crowns can prevent flowering.

FEEDING

Use a soil test to guide amendments. A modest spring feeding may help in poor soil; follow fertilizer rates and keep granules away from crowns and tender shoots. Avoid heavy nitrogen applications. Fertilizer will not correct poor light, deep planting or inadequate drainage.

SEASONAL CARE

Install supports early for heavy-flowered cultivars. Remove faded blooms, leaving healthy leaves through summer to nourish the roots. After foliage dies in fall, cut herbaceous stems near ground level and remove debris. Divide in early fall only when needed; established peonies prefer to remain undisturbed.

HELPFUL TIPS

Young or recently moved plants may take several seasons to flower well. Watch for peony wilt, leaf blotch and powdery mildew; spacing and fall cleanup help. Ants visiting buds do not need routine treatment. This guide covers herbaceous garden peonies, not woody tree peonies or Itoh hybrids.