



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

FERNLEAF PEONY CARE

LIGHT

Fernleaf peony (*Paeonia tenuifolia*) grows best with at least six hours of sun. Its fine, deeply divided leaves and early red flowers suit the front of a sunny border. These plants are smaller than many garden peonies; allow room without letting taller neighbors shade them.

WATER

Keep soil moderately moist while the plant is growing and establishing. Water deeply in dry periods, then allow excess water to drain. Avoid continually saturated soil. If foliage naturally dies back in summer, do not try to force fresh growth with extra water.

SOIL & PLANTING

Choose well-drained soil and a lasting location. Set bare-root growth buds, or eyes, roughly 1 1/2 to 2 inches below the surface, pointing upward. Avoid deep planting or heavy mulch over the crown. Plant potted specimens without burying their established crown more deeply.

FEEDING

Use modest fertilizer only as needed, following label directions. Keep granules well away from the crown and new shoots to avoid burn. A soil test helps determine whether amendments are necessary. Extra feeding is not a remedy for shade or planting too deeply.

SEASONAL CARE

Remove faded blooms but leave all healthy green foliage to replenish roots. Some fernleaf plants become dormant by midsummer; tidy only foliage that has fully died. Remove remaining dead stems and leaves in fall. Mark the location so the dormant crown is not accidentally disturbed.

HELPFUL TIPS

Do not divide routinely: fernleaf peonies can remain in place for many years. If moving becomes necessary, handle fleshy roots carefully and replant at the correct depth. The double-flowered selections need the same basic care as the species. Bloom is naturally earlier than many garden peonies, and new plants may take time to settle.