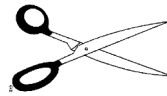


Gardenia Peony



Big spherical buds on sturdy stems gradually open from late spring to early summer, transforming into huge stunning blooms. Peonies require support to keep the heavy blossoms from flopping. For long-lasting cut flowers, harvest when buds are soft like marshmallows but not quite open.

Paeonia lactiflora 'Gardenia'

- **Use:** These long-lived, plants are classic elements of borders and beds, and they add a bit of nostalgia and charm to the garden. Their fragrant blooms and lush foliage have made them popular for years, and with the recent resurgence in breeding, they will continue to improve. They can be utilized in many ways, including mass plantings, specimens, or hedges. As a bonus, peonies are superior as cut flowers—it's no wonder they're considered "The Queen of Garden Flowers!" Great as focal points in a perennial bed, for hedges or in a spot of their own. **WE LOVE PEONIES, BUT THEY ARE NOT A BEGINNER PLANT! GREAT LOCATION WITH DRAINAGE NEEDED AND SOIL PREP FOR SUCCESS!**
- **Exposure/Soil:** Morning sun and a little afternoon shade after 3pm preferred (not deep shade here in the South); Water regularly, when top 3" of soil is dry. Use slow release fertilizer twice a year in spring and fall. Once established needs only occasional water. In very hot summers it may go summer dormant. Soil prep is very important and must be well drained and have a pH of 6.5-7 so Georgia clay will need to be amended with dolomitic lime.
- **Growth:** Grows 3 feet tall and 2' 6" wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 3-8; Perennial
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. The red to forest-green shoots appear in mid-spring and form a bushy clump of lustrous dark green deeply lobed foliage that makes a lovely hedge or backdrop to the flower garden.
- **Flowers:** Blush-white, double, fragrant, midseason. Golden stamens mixed with center petals on a very beautiful gardenia shaped flower.
- **Tips:** Plant them shallow, mulch in the summer, take off the mulch in the winter, and they prefer a little afternoon shade. Cold winters will ensure lots of blossoms so plant them where they will get cold in the winter and cool in the summer too.

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