## Marie Lemoine Peony







## Paeonia lactiflora 'Marie Lemoine'

- <u>Use:</u> 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. WE LOVE PEONIES, BUT THEY ARE NOT A BEGINNER PLANT!
  LOTS OF RESEARCH NEEDED AND SOIL PREP FOR SUCCESS! PLEASE ASK
  FOR A HANDOUT.
- <u>Exposure/Soil</u>: 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 2.5 feet wide.
- Hardiness: Zone 3-8; Perennial
- Foliage: Deciduous. Dark green lobed leaves.
- <u>Flowers</u>: Double type; very large; late. Compact and flat at first; lemon-white with a trace of crimson on edges of a few petals and whole flower strongly suffused with yellow from hidden stamens and staminodes; develops to a large, globular form, pure white, with a few yellow petaloids in the collar; richly fragrant. A treasure for cut flower enthusiasts.
- <u>Tips</u>: 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.