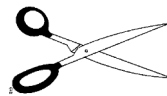


Percher Peony



Paeonia lactiflora 'Pêcher'

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 cutflowers, harvest when buds are soft like marshmallows but not quite open.

- **Use:** Pêcher is fantastically scented and a dreamy-looking bloom for your beds and borders! Don't be surprised if you want to plant a few extras in your garden just so you can bring those glorious blossoms indoors for your bouquets! Imagine waking up to the sight and scent of these lovelies by your bedside table? Host a party with these dessert-tray-worthy flowers on the table! 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! 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:** A semi-double flower of pale pink and creamy-white petals! The outer petals occasionally display a hairline edge of red streaks! With a wide layer of outer petals and a rounded dollop of confectionery-worthy center petals. Known for a light, pleasant fragrance. A treasure for cut flower enthusiasts.
- **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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