



## *PLANTING AND CULTIVATION*

### *How to Plant*

- Plant your roots as soon as they arrive. Do not let them dry out.
- Choose a well-drained, open, position with plenty of sun.
- If your soil tends to be wet, plant the peonies on a mound.
- For impact, plant three roots of your chosen variety 90-100cm apart in a triangle to give a good mass of flower.
- Dig a hole big enough to accommodate the roots easily allowing room for growth and deep enough to place the buds or 'eyes' 3cm below the soil surface. Plant the root too deep and you won't get any flowers.
- Replace the soil, adding manure or low nitrogen fertilizer and firm around the roots to remove air-pockets.
- Give them a good water and in a very dry, summer, an occasional soak.
- Be patient! The plants will begin to flower really well the second year after planting.
- In autumn as foliage dies back, cut off spent foliage and remove.
- Let the plant become well established before trying to move it again.

### *Feed*

- Peonies are tough and long-lived so they will benefit from an occasional feed.
- Use a low nitrogen fertilizer scattered around the plant.
- High nitrogen fertilizer encourages lush leafy growth that is more susceptible fungal problems.
- Do not mulch or place manure close to the stems of the plant.



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### *Pests and Disease*

- Botrytis is a fungal disease. Spores can be air-borne or carried by insects. In cold moist conditions buds and stems affected turn brown and suddenly wilt. Control by removing any affected stems and bag or burn them. Do not compost the affected material. Good air circulation and not wetting the foliage helps prevent infection.
- Swift moth larvae can attack peony roots but this is seldom a problem unless you are growing peonies in containers. If a well-established plant appears to be failing, dig it up in autumn and wash off the roots. Nibbled roots and fat white larvae are signs of swift moth damage. Trim the damaged roots and replant. Once the plant has recovered it will begin to flower again.

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