



KENNEDY'S COUNTRY GARDENS

"INSPIRING SUCCESSFUL GARDENS SINCE 1960"

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Peonies 2010

Legend has it that a Greek physician Paeon treated Pluto's wounds received in his losing battle with Hercules. In gratitude Pluto turned Paeon into the flower we all know as the Peony.

Paeonia lactiflora

'Buckeye Belle': Early, 30" stems carry semi-double, dark maroon flowers.

'Coral Fay': Semi-double medium pink flowers, spreading habit with narrow leaves, 28".

'Coral Charm': Early, semi-double has deep coral buds that open to pleasing coral-peach blossom. True color breakthrough for the peony garden. Excellent cut flower. A classic! American Peony Society Gold Medal Selection.

'Dinner Plate': Inhale the delicious fragrance of these sought-after peonies! The translucent blush pink double center of the exceptionally large blooms fades to white at the edges. The exquisite rose shape and perfect plant habit of these late-spring blooming flowers are perfect for borders or bouquets. Grows to 2-3' tall.

'Doreen': 30-40" tall, single, dark pink flowers, with yellow fringed center, blooming May to Late June.

'Dr. Alex Fleming': Mid-season, large, double, deep pink blossoms on stem reaching 30" tall.

'Duchesse de Nemours': Large fragrant white, 3", mid-late bloom.

'Festiva Maxima': Introduced in 1851 and still highly favored! Fully double, white blossoms, with crimson flecks, bloom late spring to early summer, on 36" stems.

'Kansas': Large double carmine red flower on strong stems, vigorous, 34", June.

'Pillow Talk': 26-32" tall, mid season bloomer. Soft and cuddly, double pink flowers.

'Pink Hawaiian Coral': Fragrant semi-double coral flowers blended to a safe soft pink at tips, strong stem. Quite a unique color! 32".

'Queen Wilhelmina': 32" tall, fuchsia-pink, semi-double flowers with white edges and showy yellow stamens. Fast growing. Mid season bloomer.

'Raspberry Sundae': 27" tall, mid-season. Vanilla ice cream dripped with raspberry topping. Very fragrant!

'Sarah Bernhardt': 35" tall, late blooming, fragrant rose-pink.

'Shirley Temple': Rosy white flowers. June. One of the most fragrant varieties. 34".

'Sorbet': Unusual coloration with almost the appearance of a creamsicle with the white center sandwiched with soft pink shades. A must for peony lovers! Very fragrant double flowers, 36", May-June.

'Top Brass': Bomb-type flower with an ivory, pink, and yellow center surrounded by creamy white petals. 36".

'Victoire de la Marne': 34" tall, mid season bloomer. Purplish-red, double blossoms with lighter edges.

'Whopper': **NEW!** Believed to be the largest blooms-a 'whopping 7.5"-8" wide! The large, soft pink flowers bloom profusely May to early June on strong, stiff stems reaching 35" at maturity. Introduced by Roy Klehm from his own breeding program.



'Top Brass

'Sorbet'

'Pink Hawaiian Coral'

'Buckeye Belle'

Itoh hybrids – Very sought after peonies and hard to find. Similar to a tree peony in flower appearance, but not as woody. Most of these hybrids have sturdy flower stems. They are being promoted to require no staking and make good cut flowers. Flower season can last 5 weeks.

x 'Bartzella' - Very large, bright yellow double blossoms stand above the lush, dark green, deeply dissected foliage. Flowers have a pleasant, slightly spicy scent.

x 'Cora Louise' - Large, semi-double blossoms, white with striking dark lavender central flares, stand above lush, toothed foliage. Flowers have a soft, pleasing scent and are a wonderful addition to any spring bouquet. It can produce up to 50 blooms in a single season.

x 'Julia Rose' - Large, double blossoms, soft apricot, blending to reddish-purple at the tips, stand above lush, toothed foliage. Flowers have a pleasant, slightly spicy scent.

x 'Kopper Kettle' - Large, semi-double blossoms, copper-orange with a darker center and occasional yellow streaks, stand above lush, toothed foliage.

x 'Sequestered Sunshine' - Large, bright canary-yellow blossoms with showy stamens stand above the lush, dark green, deeply dissected foliage.



'Bartzella'



'Kopper Kettle'



'Coral Louise'

Japanese Tree Peonies

Paeonia suffruticosa

'Hatsugarasu': Very dark red to almost black semi-double flowers, long narrow leaves.

'Kao': Fully double red flowers, considered to be the perfect flower! 5'.

'Kinshi': (Golden Bird) double golden yellow

'Schichifukujin': (Seven Gods and Goddesses of Happiness)—bright double crimson with lighter pink margins.

Tree peonies closely resemble the growth habit of woody shrubs. They should be planted as early in the season as possible so that they may establish themselves.

Hardiness Zones

Hardy in USDA Zones 4-8.

Ideal conditions

Tree peonies will perform to their maximum potential if the soil is friable (loose and crumbly) and well-tilled, with supplemental organic matter or Fafard Complete Planting Mix. A slow release, high-phosphorous fertilizer should also be incorporated into the soil. When your soil contains adequate organic matter, the plant will not need fertilizing again for several years. When you do need to fertilize, we recommend Espoma Plant Tone and Bonemeal. Mulching is recommended, and we suggest Coast of Maine enriching mulch.

Tree peonies grow from 3' to 5' high and equally wide in about 10 years; and occasionally larger under ideal growing conditions. Prune in late winter to keep smaller or to eliminate dead wood. Keep their mature size in mind when planting.

Planting Hints

A permanent, sunny to partially shady, well-drained growing location is ideal for tree peonies. Dig a hole large enough to accommodate the root system of the plant; 2' wide x 2' deep is adequate. The tree peony should be planted so that the top of the soil ball is at ground level. The graft of the woody stem (scion) and the root (under stock) is very sensitive. The graft should be well below the soil line so the plant can eventually develop its own root system and no longer depend on the rootstock to which it has been grafted.

Maintenance

Protect tree peonies from heavy winds. In colder climates, tree peonies should be given about 4" to 5" of salt marsh hay mulch. Patience is required to grow these plants, the longer you wait the more flowers you get.