



Peony Culture – Bareroot to Container

By Virginia Brubaker – Griffin Ghse & Nursery Technical Support Specialist

A. General Information:

- a. Well drained perennial mix soil
- b. Soil pH 5.5 - 7.5
- c. Hardiness Zone 4 – 8
- d. Part Sun to Full Sun

B. Transplant:

- a. September to mid October (Established root system and vernalization = Bloom in Spring)
 - i. Overwinter at temperatures just at freezing. (No higher than Mid 30's.)
- b. End of February to March (Typically no bloom first season. Can purchase vernalized stock.)
 - i. Force at temperatures at 55°

C. Container size: Depends on bareroot size & number of eyes.

- a. One Gallon
- b. Two Gallon

D. Fertilizer:

- a. Slow release Fertilizer – preferred
 - i. Osmocote 15-9-12
 - ii. Nutricote 18-6-8

E. Insect & Disease Problems:

- a. Aphids
- b. Slugs
- c. Botrytis
- d. Fusarium Wilt
- e. Rust

Consumer information:

The best time to plant or divide peonies is in late August or early September. If the peony clumps are dried out, soak them in water until they are firm. Plant peonies in full sun; do not plant them under shade trees. Place the clump in the hole so that buds are 2 inches below the soil surface. Plant 3 to 4 feet apart. Fill in around roots with a good soil; then settle the soil by tamping and watering.

To divide a peony, cut the top back to 4 inches. Dig around roots on all sides and carefully lift clumps. Do not break side roots. Discard any disease or insect infested roots. Divide the clump with a knife or sharp spade. Allow three to five buds for each new clump. Do not plant newly divided peonies more than 2” deep.