

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHEN CAN BLOOMS BE EXPECTED?

Beginning the second spring season they produce impressive flowers. However if temperatures do not run into extreme heat too fast this season, you may get some flowers in the first season in mid-summer.

### ARE ANTS ON THE BLOSSOMS A SIGN OF PESTS?

No. Ants feed on the sweet sugary nectar of the flowers. Peonies are darn near pest free.

### CAN TREE PEONIES BE DIVIDED, MOVED OR OTHER?

These plants should not be moved, divided, or bothered unless absolutely necessary. If they have not flowered for a while or do not flower well, you can dig around them and re-plant less shallow. Do this in the spring. If you do any of the above they often miss a season of flowering. Since they live for decades, a little medicine is well worthwhile.

### DOES THE PLANTING DEPTH MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE?

Yes. If planted too deep they will grow but not flower well. See image inside guide for a visual. Plant vertically. Dig holes two times the width of roots and deep enough to accommodate the roots plus 1 to 2 inches of stem. Pack in well. Then water them thoroughly making sure water reaches all of root zone.

### DO THEY NEED TO BE CUT BACK?

No. These are woody shrub-like peonies. New growth will fall away on its own and harden up on the parts left on plant.

### SHOULD THE SUCKERS FROM SOIL BE REMOVED?

No. These plants are grown on their own root stock and are not grafted! That means any growth from below soil will be true blue tree peony!

## FIRST THINGS FIRST...

When your plant arrives from Roberta's, remove it from the shipping box immediately.

Keep tree form bareroot(s) inside packing material until ready to plant into ground or container. Put in a cool dark, protected area and plant as soon as possible. For extended storage time, place in refrigerator on their side for up to 3 weeks.

When ready to plant, do the job as early in the day as possible to avoid extreme soil temperatures that prevent proper water uptake from the roots. Water them in well and whisper a few words of wisdom.

### Thank you for your order!

Take your gardening experience to new heights by visiting Roberta's Unique Gardens. Our goal is to enhance your gardening enjoyment by providing you with top quality, leading edge perennials and annuals that are suitable for your garden and home with the best service imaginable.

Roberta's is a 4th generation family owned business and has been one of the leading commercial exhibitors at flower and garden shows for over 50 years in the U.S. and abroad. We search the globe to find easy-to-grow plants that are unique in themselves or their variety making them nearly impossible to find elsewhere. Our passion and commitment continually asks the question, "What makes a better, unsurpassed, and more beautiful flower to behold?"

Working with growers and breeders from all over the world, Roberta's is able to bring you hard-to-find plants and new species that will be sweethearts for years to come.

Thank you for bringing us into your home,

Eric, Kevin, and Koort Wallien



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Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm EST

Thank you  
for bringing us into your home

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ROBERTA'S GARDENS  
PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



Tree Peony  
(Paeonia suffruticosa)

# QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE:	Full to Partial Sun
USDA HARDINESS ZONES:	4-9
PLANTING DISTANCE:	48-60 inches
MATURE HEIGHT/SPREAD:	48-60 inches/48-60 inches
BLOOM TIME:	Mid Spring subsequent seasons
PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS: (soil preparation, depth, which end is up, etc.)	Discard any unattached pieces of old roots or crown remnants. Dig a hole two times the width of the root and deep enough to accommodate all of the roots plus 1-2 inches of the stems. Pack soil firmly around roots.

# PLANTING GUIDE

1  
STEP

Plant when night temperatures stay above 45 degrees. Open bag around roots. Discard packing moss and any other remnants. Choose partial or dappled sunny location where plant can be left undisturbed for many years.

2  
STEP

Plant vertically. Dig a hole two times the width of roots and deep enough to accommodate the roots plus 1 to 2 inches of stem. Pack in well. Then water them thoroughly making sure water reaches all of root zone.

3  
STEP

Rather than in the garden you may re-pot into large containers. Re pot the plants into at least 10 to 12 inch pots separately.

4  
STEP

Beginning the second spring season they produce impressive flowers. In late autumn foliage falls away naturally by itself. Do not cut away any portion of woody stem.

# CONTINUING CARE

## PREPARATION

Keep in cool dark area prior to planting. Discard any unattached pieces of old roots that may have occurred.

## DETERMINING THE BOTTOM OR TOP OF BARE ROOT

These bare root starts have roots radiating from a central point called the crown. Above the crown are the stems with buds. Plant with the roots facing downward and stems upwards. The stems will be about 8-10 inches above the soil after planting.

## PLANTING DEPTH

Dig a hole two times the width of the root and deep enough to accommodate all of the roots plus 1 to 2 inches of the stems for good depth support.

## SPROUTING TIME

Sprouts in May after 4-6 weeks. It takes a little longer if the temperatures are still cold.

## POTTED PLANTS

You may plant individually into large containers. A 5 to 7 gallon size container is best. Yearly spring top dressing with fresh soil and compost is recommended.

## GARDEN PREPARATION

Dig a hole two times the width of the root and deep enough to accommodate all of the roots plus 1 to 2 inches of the stems. Pack soil firmly around roots. Space them at least 48 to 60 inches apart. These spread rapidly and like the room to grow.

## SOIL

If your soil is clayish amend it with a standard garden soil and compost for adequate drainage. Otherwise we recommend purchasing a potting mix that has fast drainage and good nutrient contents.

## WATER

Water thoroughly upon planting making sure water reaches all of root zone. Let soil dry out 4 to 6 inches below surface in between watering. Automatic sprinkler systems that keep soil continuously moist should be avoided. The leading cause of plant failure is excess water. It is better to water heavily and less often than lightly and more often.

## FERTILIZER

This helps maintain flower size and count from year to year. For best results, use Roberta's Flower Magic Plant Food (M7503) once a month all summer long.

## LIGHTING

Dappled sun is preferred though partial sun is fine too.

## BLOOMING

Beginning the second spring season they produce impressive flowers. However if temperatures do not run into extreme heat too fast this season, you may get some flowers in the first season in mid-summer.

## TEMPERATURE ZONE 4 to 9

These are hardy down to a minus 25F.

## WINTER DORMANCY

After the first frost, they will lose their foliage. DO NOT CUT THEM BACK.

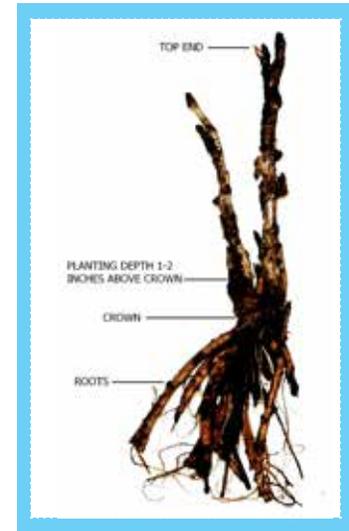
## PROPAGATING

These roots will re-bloom every year. They should remain undisturbed.

## CUT FLOWERS

These make excellent cut flowers. Only cut green part of stem never into woody portion.

# ADDITIONAL REFERENCE



Tree Peony  
Shipped  
As Shown



Royal Court Red  
3 years old



Happy Luxuriant Pink  
4 to 5 years old



Garden Jade Light Pink  
100 years old



White Phoenix very  
fragrant and high yields