

Spring Park Nursery



2021

Peony Rose Catalogue

Herbaceous Peonies

The gorgeous blooms of the Peony have been admired and adored by many over hundreds of years, with records of ornamental cultivation dating back to the 5th century. Historically they have been grown for Emperors and the social elite, who could afford the highly prized blooms. Today they remain one of the most used flowers for wedding bouquets and are a highly sought after and popular cut flower. Many thousands of the precious blooms are exported all around the world each year.

In ancient Greek mythology the Peony was created to honour Paeon, a physician of the Olympian gods and a student of the god of healing, Asklepios. According to the mythology, Hercules battled with Hades, god of the dead and king of the underworld, managing to injure Hades with an arrow to the shoulder. Unable to find Asklepios to heal him, Hades sought treatment from Paeon. Unfortunately for Paeon the treatment was successful and Asklepios killed him in a jealous rage to prevent being further upstaged. Upon finding his body, Zeus, king of the gods, honoured the fallen healer by transforming him into the beautiful Peony flower.

Peonies have been cultivated for medicines in China for at least 2000 years, using the roots and seeds for various remedies. Peony lactiflora roots are still used today in traditional Chinese medicine for their analgesic properties, reducing inflammation in arthritic joints, and for the easing of spasmodic conditions. Buddhist monks introduced Japan to the medicinal qualities of Peonies, and we can thank them for the many tree Peonies we have today.

In France, the Peony was cultivated from the late 18th century. Many varieties came via England, which had better trade links with the Chinese and Japanese. One of the first to cultivate this plant in France was grower Nicholas Lemon (1766-1836). Lemon introduced Peony 'Edulis Superba', which is still grown today, 197 years after its release! The Comte de Cussy was a dedicated amateur grower and imported many varieties from China, raising many interesting varieties. Jacques Calot became a Peony grower in Douai in northern France, and his love of Peonies secured the plant collection belonging to the Comte de Cussy in 1850. He used this collection in his plant breeding, which saw the release of 20 new varieties including 'Duchesse de Nemours', a variety highly prized today for the purity of its white colour. This is just one of the great varieties he bred during his lifetime, before he sold his collection to Felix Crousse in 1872. Crousse also became a great peony breeder and his varieties are highly sought after today as well.

Peonies are native to the northern hemisphere, flourishing in China, Japan, Northern India, the Caucasus, Siberia, Asia Minor and a few small areas of Europe in Sardinia, the Ionian Islands, and Corsica. Two species are also native to North America.

Herbaceous Peonies are easy to grow and form vigorous, long lasting garden plants with opulent blooms that make wonderful cut flowers. In Australia they grow best in cool to temperate gardens.

Peonies need cold winters for the best flowers, with a period of at least 3 to 5°C. They are heavy feeders, so you need to fertilise them regularly. They also like lime applied in autumn - lots of it - so be sure to indulge them.

Newly planted Peonies may take a year or more before they bloom for you to enjoy, since they resent having their roots disturbed and flowering can be delayed. The wait will be worth it though, and they will reward you with blooms for many years to come as they are extremely long lived.

Potted Peony plants are available from the nursery in spring.

Enjoy the beauty!



Herbaceous Peonies



Coral Charm

An award winning, early-to-mid season flowering variety of herbaceous peony which has delightful coral coloured blooms. The cup shaped blooms are held on very strong stems, which can reach 1.2 metres high, with dark green foliage. Blooms are lotus-like and open slowly to about 12cm wide in a blend of coral-orange, pink and peach colours, fading to a buff yellow at the blooms end.

Highly recommended!



Dr Alexander Fleming

A great variety for the garden, with abundant, large, ruffled, dinner plate sized blooms like a can-can dancer's petticoat. Blooms can reach 20cm wide and are a deep pink colour with a sweet floral scent. Bred in the Netherlands by peony breeder Blonk, and a cross between 'Bunker Hill' and 'Sarah Bernhardt'. Released before 1950 and named after the Scottish microbiologist who discovered penicillin, winning a Nobel Prize for it. This variety shares many similarities with 'Sarah Bernhardt', but the big difference is that it is two shades darker in colour. The two varieties in the garden complement each other nicely.



Duchesse de Nemours

This grand old lady of the garden is best known for its purity of white colour. It was raised and introduced in 1856 by Jacques Calot, a Peony grower in Douai, northern France. Large green-white buds open to beautiful white, bowl shaped blooms, 13cm wide. As they age, the guard petals turn back and reveal lovely white incurving inner petals, with a primrose lemon glow at their base.

This variety has a beautiful perfume that is strong and sweet, reminiscent to that of Lilly of the Valley.

Stem height to 80cm, with mid-season blooming over dark green foliage.

Herbaceous Peonies



Felix Supreme

This vigorous variety has beautiful deep pink-to-red blooms that carry a light scent.

Selected as an improved form to that of a popular variety called 'Felix Crousse'. The variety was bred by Mr. Nicolaas Isaac Willem Kriek, a peony breeder from Michigan who introduced peony 'Felix Supreme' in 1955.

This excellent variety is suitable for the garden or for exhibition, with mid-season blooming on flowering stems to 1.2 metres tall.



Ivory Victory

This variety produces large, beautiful, well-shaped and rounded blooms, and is great as a cut flower or for the garden.

Large buds open to fully double, ivory-white flowers that are fragrant and produced late in the season.

A strong growing plant with great strength and plentiful blooms on stems to 90cm tall.

Bred by Roy G. Klehm, with its maiden flowering in 1969. This variety was not registered until the 15th June in 1988, and is named to honour the Victory Garden programs of WWII.



Kansas

This award winning, beautiful, deep fuchsia pink peony has large double flowers. Blooms grow up to 15cm wide and are held on thick red stems, with dark foliage on a vigorous plant, and are ideal for cut flowers. Blooms mid-to-late in the season.

Kansas was bred by Bigger in America and released in 1940, being awarded the American Peony Society Gold Medal in 1957.

When picking blooms, wait until the black bracts open fully and full colour is showing, don't pick it in bud too early.

Herbaceous Peonies



Karl Rosenfield

This beautiful variety of Peony is a shade of dark velvety crimson, with clear and brilliant colour.

Produces large, globe shaped buds that open to large double blooms reaching up to 18cm wide.

Blooms are held on strong stems to 95cm high. As blooms age they open to reveal a multitude of yellow stamens at their heart.

Released in 1908 by John Rosenfield and named after his son Karl.



Lemon Chiffon

This is an outstanding and very popular cut flower variety.

Blooms early in the season, with large, full, semi-double to double yellow blooms. Flowers are produced on strong, thick stems that grow 60-90cm tall and carry many side buds per stem.

This variety is greatly sought after for the breeding of new yellow varieties of peony.

'Lemon Chiffon' was bred by David Reath in 1981, and won the American Peony Society's Grand Champion award in 2000.



Madame Emile Debatène

This variety originated with a famous French peony breeder and has double, large, bomb-type blooms of pink that appear late in the season. Flowers are produced on tall, stiff stems to 1.2m high, over dark green foliage.

Bred in 1927 by Auguste Dessert (1859-1929), known as probably the greatest French peony breeder, and who sold his business to Edouard Doriat & Sons in Chenonceaux, France. They released this variety with Auguste Dessert before his death in 1929.

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Marguerite Gérard

This beautiful variety was bred in France in 1892 by Felix Crousse. It is named to honour the late great French artist and print maker Marguerite Gérard, whose work was in the Rococo style. A painting of hers was even purchased by Napoleon himself.

The blooms are enormous, pale hydrangea pink, and have compact double blooms that carry a light fragrance and lighten as they age. The centres of the blooms develop a crown and have a multitude of yellow stamens. Petals can be minutely flecked dark carmine.

Blooms on sturdy stems of medium height to about 90cm.



Marie Lemoine

Bred in 1869 by Jacques Calot, a Peony grower in Douai, northern France.

This variety is much loved and very popular, having graced many gardens for over 150 years.

The white blooms are very large, rose-type, and have a cream centre. Flowers are occasionally tipped with carmine and carry a pleasant fragrance.

Blooms are supported by extra strong stems of medium height to 70cm.

Late season flowering.



Monsieur Jules Elie

An old fashioned favourite and one of the most popular blooms for the cut flower trade.

This variety was bred in 1888 by Felix Crousse of France and has truly stood the test of time.

The extra large bomb-type blooms are beautiful, highly fragrant, and are coloured in a light rose-pink that has an opalescent sheen.

Tall stems grow up to 90cm high over dark green foliage.

Flowers mid-to-late in the season.

Herbaceous Peonies



Paul M. Wilde

This strong growing variety blooms mid-to-late in the season, producing deep, velvet, ruby red double blooms that are well shaped.

Peony buds are large and produced on strong, tall stems to 1.2m high. Ideal for picking.

This variety was bred in 1964 by the Wild brothers, and named after Paul M. Wild who was the son of Gilbert Herman Wild.

Gilbert Herman Wild & Sons is a long standing nursery business established in 1885 in Sarcoxie, Missouri.



Red Charm

This variety flowers early in the season, producing large, deep red, bomb-type blooms with large outer guard petals that hold the beautiful bloom together.

Flowers are also fragrant, with a slight clove scent.

Strong stems hold the large blooms, growing to a height of 60-90cm above the green foliage.

This popular cut flower keeps well in a vase and was also awarded a Gold Medal by the American Peony Society in 1956.



Red Magic

This mid-to-late season flowering variety produces double blooms in a vivid, deep, cranberry-red. Magic is the right word.

Flowers are lightly fragrant, have a large petal count, and also feature a darker central tuft.

Stems grow to 60-90cm tall, and make for a neat plant.

Bred in China by Hei Hai Bo Tao.

Herbaceous Peonies



Red Sarah Bernhardt

This large, double, red flowered form of peony carries the name of Red Sarah Bernhardt and one would think it is a sport of the well-known variety, but they are not related at all!

This recent introduction was bred in China from an unknown breeder, and resembles the form of 'Sarah Bernhardt'. It is not a true red, but purple and cerise in colour, with large puffy flowers of beautiful form.

An excellent performer as a cut flower when cut at the right stage. A unique quality for a peony of this colour! Has a good growth habit that produces many flowering stems.



Sarah Bernhardt

Probably one of the world's most well-known peony variety, and one of the most popular varieties as a cut flower today.

Bred in France in 1906 by Emile Lemoine, the son of Victor Lemoine. This is a beautiful variety and is named after the famous French stage actress Sarah Bernhardt.

Produces large buds with distinctive dark pink striping. Buds open to large double blooms of soft seashell pink that are lightly fragrant. Stems reach up to 1.2m tall.

Late season flowering.

RHS Award of Garden Merit in 1993.



Sarah Bernhardt Sport

This is a fairy new and rare sport of the famous peony variety 'Sarah Bernhardt'.

Produces a stunning display of lightly fragrant blooms in shades of both dark pink and soft shell pink. Sometimes split colours occur within a single bloom, making for a gorgeous contrast.

Has the same great strength and vigour as its parent.

Produces tall stems, up to 1.2 metres.

Flowers late in the season.

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Shirley Temple

Bred in 1948 in the USA by peony breeder Louis Smirnow and named to honour the famous Shirley Temple.

This variety has large, fragrant, double blooms. Colouring starts off with blush pink buds, turning white when open. Central petals can also have a slight crimson edge.

A great late-season blooming variety and a strong growing plant. Grows up to 80cm high.

Bred from a cross of 'Festiva Maxima' and 'Mme Edouard Doriat'.



Officinalis 'Alba Plena'

This delightful old-fashioned variety of garden peony is rarely offered for sale. It has graced many gardens and is often found around Victorian-era homesteads in our area.

This beautiful mid-season flowering variety has large buds which open with a blush of pink to become large double white blooms.

Each tall stem produces two or three flowers, and grow to 1 metre high over dark foliage.



Sarah Bernhardt



SPRING PARK NURSERY

Rose & Plant Specialists

We welcome you to visit Spring Park Nursery and Display Gardens, Central Victoria's Specialist Rose & Plant Nursery. Stroll through our gardens and nursery, smell and admire the beauty of over 1200 varieties of roses. The nursery stocks a large range of roses and diverse range of perennials and shrubs, from the rare and unusual, including old fashioned favourites to popular new varieties.

Open 7 days

9am to 5.30pm

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