



**Soil:** Peonies do well in most soil conditions. The addition of **Composted Manure** and **Sphagnum Peat** will assure a healthy planting. These products help to nurture the plant, hold moisture and aerate the soil.

**Water:** Peonies need to be watered well in the spring while they are blooming. Otherwise, they can tolerate reasonably dry summers.

**Planting, Winter Care:** See instructions found in the *Perennials-General Care* sheet.

**Fertilizer:** Fertilizer can be applied in the spring at flowering time and again in the fall, as Peony roots continue to develop at this time. Fertilize with **Better Blooms™ Perennial, Tree & Shrub Food** according to package directions.

**Dividing:** Fall is the best time to divide older established Peony bushes. Dig out the entire clump or as much of the clump as you wish to move. If you wash the roots with a garden hose you will be better able to distinguish the individual buds. Allow the roots to set for a few hours before replanting. This causes them to dry out somewhat and makes them less brittle and more pliable. Pry or cut out any dead tissue or weak spots. Make sure each section has roots and 3-5 buds. Replant at the same depth that it was growing previously. It is very important that you do not plant Peonies deeper than 1-2" beneath the soil. If planted deeper, your Peonies may not bloom.

**Pruning:** Peonies do not require pruning during the growing season other than to remove broken or otherwise damaged branches. However, **Tree Peonies** are not herbaceous; they **do not die back** to the ground in winter as other Peonies do. These shrub-type bushes can go unpruned resulting in a large number of smaller blooms. If you would rather have a smaller bush and larger blooms, a Tree Peony can be pruned by cutting off old brittle stems at the base every two to three years in the fall, or remove one-third of the oldest stems each fall.

**Other Considerations:** It is a good idea to stake your Peonies. The large blooms can sometimes become very heavy, especially after a rain shower, and cause the plants to droop. Peony rings can be used for this purpose. Placing them around the plant in early spring as it begins to grow makes staking a lot easier as the plant is still small and easier to work with.