

These easy to grow, deer resistant perennials require a cool winter climate to satisfy dormancy requirements, good drainage, loamy soil, good air circulation, abundant sunshine (never shade) and spring moisture. They are best planted, moved or divided in October for thorough root development and nutrient storage before the ground freezes. Peonies prefer slightly soil with an acidic to neutral pH soil (6.0 to 7.0).

Prepare the planting site by cultivating holes 2 feet wide, 1 1/2 feet deep and 3 to 4 feet apart. Fill each hole with about 1 feet of good garden loam. Plant each rootstock so the crown is only 2" below the soil level with the eyes (sprouts) pointing up. Carefully shovel in loose soil around the root stock. Water well.

Water newly planted peony rootstocks in the fall if rain is sparse. Generally considered summer drought-resistant, peonies like 1 inch of water consistently every week in the spring. In late fall, cut stalks down almost to ground level and discard all plant debris and cuttings

Lack of bloom could be caused by the following: crowns are planted too deeply; the plant is too shaded; poor drainage; over-crowding or a late killing frost. Replant 1/2 inch higher than the soil level. Water and mulch throughout the summer; the crown should settle down to the soil level. Otherwise, allow the peony foliage to grow and thrive for future years' bloom.