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Contributed by Trish Reynolds

PEONIES—GLORIOUS IN MAY

There are not many things we can count on to come back year after year in our garden world; however for me there is one glorious plant I can count on to bloom in May - the incredible Peony. Valued for their form, stunning range of colors, and exceptional hardiness, few other plants once established bloom so reliably year after year with such little care. Their large, glorious flowers add bright splashes of color to your garden and they make fabulous cut flowers with the added benefit of their glorious fragrance.

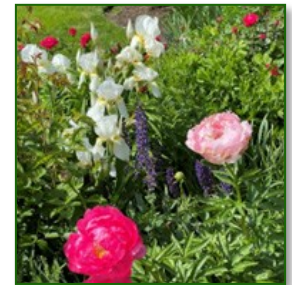


I can remember the beautiful peony garden from my youth that my Grandmother so lovingly tended....rows of pink and white peonies then when we moved from Long Island to Oxford we brought some of those fantastic old-fashioned plants with us.

Today we tend to grow our peonies in amongst other spring blooming plants adding to the richness of our spring garden.....foxgloves, roses, ranunculus, iris, to name a few. We have also seen the development of new hybrids, inviting us to sample a few of these beauties in our gardens.

A few tips on Peonies:

- If you are planting bare root, best to plant in the fall.
- Peonies do not like to be moved once established, so be sure you plant them in a “permanent home.”
- Once planted, it might take two years before they will bloom.
- Often Peonies need to be supported as they produce many flowers and they tend to be heavy, so be sure to provide that support early in the spring.



Here are a few pictures of Peonies I have growing in my garden!

