

PASSIONATE FOR PEONIES GUIDE



A GUIDE DEDICATED TO CELEBRATING THE PEONIES GROWN BY MEMBER-FARMS OF THE ALASKA PEONY COOPERATIVE



WELCOME

FLOWER FRIENDS!

This guide was designed by the member-farmers of the Alaska Peony Cooperative as a reference tool for selecting the perfect peonies for garden, farm or vase. Whether your peonies will be used as a focal point in a beautiful landscape or used in a romantic bridal bouquet, this guide provides insight to the subtle nuances and defining characteristics of 24 outstanding peony varieties.

The cultivars described in this guide are available through most commercial root growers and many of the descriptions can be considered universal. That said, our growing conditions in Alaska are somewhat unique and often differ from growing conditions in other parts of the world. Please keep this in mind when selecting the perfect peony cultivars to grow in your unique microclimate. For additional resources about growing peonies in your area, contact your local cooperative extension office or your local chapter of the American Peony Society.

We hope you enjoy this guide

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WITH RESEARCH SUPPORT FROM

Alaska Peony Cooperative
American Peony Society
Hollingsworth Peonies
Adelman's Peony Gardens
Khlem's Song Sparrow Farm
Georgeson Botanical
Garden
Missouri Botanical Garden
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DUCHESS DE NEMOURS

The Queen of white peonies, 'Duchesse' offers a bloom form and fragrance by which all other white peonies are compared. Perhaps her most beloved feature is the large creamy white guard petals which form a cup around a center of ruffled petals as the bloom opens.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- 'Duchesse' is featured extensively on Pinterest, brides just can't get enough of her!
- According the University of Michigan, 'Duchesse' has one of the top rated fragrances of all peonies.
- Plants can grow up to 36 inches tall and require support when mature. 'Duchesse' are prone to falling over even in light wind and rain.
- It can take at least three years for a plant to mature, though 'Duchesse' is easy to grow and not easily susceptible to disease if cared for properly.
- 'Duchesse' is an excellent cut-flower choice for commercial production, however it must be harvested in a tight bud to keep from opening in the cooler.
- 'Duchesse' is an early season bloomer and should grow well in zones 3-8.



“ **"Strong stems that give a sturdy base to work their magic."** ”
-Terri L., Florist, AK



Tight, small buds that bloom quickly and average 4-6 inches in diameter when open. A full and incredibly fragrant bloom.



Double, globe shaped flowers are creamy white with a buttermilk yellow glow at the base of the inner ruffled petals.



Timeless, and a perfect complement to any design. We ship 'Duchesse' stems early July through mid-August.

BOULE DE NEIGE

'Boule de Neige' is one of the sturdiest white peonies that we've come across. This variety is particularly good as a cut flower because it is easy to harvest, stores supremely well in a cooler, and the blooms open reliably when removed from cold storage. It is also tolerant of heat at outdoor events and has an incredible vase life.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- 'Boule de Neige' is French for 'Snowball', how appropriate! Perfect for beginning growers as this variety is nearly fail proof.
- Produces a large number of side buds requiring laborious hand removal for cut flower sales.
- Reaching 34-36 inches tall with dark green, narrow, cupped foliage. Early to mid-season bloomer and should do well in zones 3-8.
- Extremely strong plants may not require support depending on your region and weather.
- 'Boule de Neige' is quick to mature and easy to grow. It is not easily susceptible to disease with proactive management.
- This particular variety produces a high percentage of flower buds that sit sideways on the stem. In a garden setting this is hardly noticeable; however, for a commercial grower, the bud must sit fairly level on the stem to meet USDA standards.
- Can be harvested very tight or with a slight give and will still hold well in the cooler.



“ I absolutely love this flower. It's dark green foliage just makes the white seem even more white. Held up well in our extreme heat as well” - **Anne R. Floral Designer** ”



Tight, large buds that bloom quickly and average 5-10 inches in diameter when open with a strong fragrance.



Cupped outer petals surrounding a fluffy center of mixed narrow petals and yellow stamens with crimson flecks on the inner petals.



Hardy and reliable full double variety. Available early July through the end of August.

FESTIVA MAXIMA

'Festiva Maxima' sets the standard for excellence and has been a top choice of both gardeners and commercial growers since 1851. It's a prolific producer, the blooms are fluffy and fragrant with long stems and the flowers are long-lasting in both the garden and the vase. A must for advanced growers and beginners alike.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- In some years, the 'Festiva Maxima' blooms grown in Alaska are a very subtle blush color rather than white, and it's hypothesized that this is due to fluctuations in climate. Growers in warmer climates may not experience this beautiful phenomenon.
- Plants can reach 3 feet tall and require staking.
- 'Festiva Maxima' is an excellent cut-flower choice for commercial production, however it must be harvested in a tight bud to keep from opening in the cooler.
- 'Festiva' is also an excellent heirloom addition to show gardens due to the beautiful form, incredible fragrance and commanding height.
- It can take at least three years for a plant to mature, though Festiva is easy to grow and not easily susceptible to disease if cared for properly.
- The white petals do not usually show spotting after rain, which is especially important for commercial growers.



“A huge double with a huge sweet fragrance. By far my favorite for fragrance.” -**Dorte M. Alaska Peony Society**

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Tight, large buds bloom quickly and average 6-9 inches in diameter when fully open.



Full double white blooms, with crimson flecks or edging on petal tips and pale green foliage.



With a few 'Festiva Maxima' in the room the entire space will be pleasantly fragranced.

AVALANCHE

Florists who ask for 'Avalanche' once always ask for 'Avalanche' again. Introduced in 1886, this stunning heirloom variety has blush buds that fade to white upon opening and occasionally display a thin crimson edge on the inner petals. 'Avalanche' adds a wonderful lushness to any arrangement, and is highly sought after for celebrations.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- 'Avalanche' is prized for the large bloom size, perfectly formed shape and large petals.
- The colors in this variety are like a soft watercolor painting that changes as the bloom ages, with pale blush and buttermilk yellow all fading to pure white.
- 'Avalanche' is easy to grow for both the home gardener and commercial producer.
- A medium-height plant that can grow up to 36 inches, 'Avalanche' should be supported due to the large blooms. It will take three to four years for a plant to mature.
- Must be harvested in a medium-tight bud, but not too hard as varieties with this many petals need to be slightly softer to fully bloom. True color must be showing in center before cutting.
- The outer petals usually do not show spotting after rain which is especially important for commercial growers.
- 'Avalanche' is a mid to late season bloomer and should grow well in zones 3-8.



“They smell wonderful and not too sweet.”
- **Cathy M. Mother of the bride**



Large buds that bloom slowly and average 6-9 inches in diameter when open. Stems are sturdy and foliage is a rich green.



Soft watercolor blush and yellow fades to white as the bloom fully opens.



A heavenly scented full double. We ship 'Avalanche' late July through August.

ELSA SASS

A true show stopper. The most common reaction to this flower is amazement followed by "what is that?" Such a large flower with so many giant petals it steals the hearts (and breath) of everyone who is lucky enough to meet her. It is a must have for gardeners and designers alike.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- 'Elsa Sass' has so many desirable qualities it is used as the parent plant for many other hybrid varieties popular today.
- One of the largest white peony flowers available. Even the smallest buds are too big for any wearable applications.
- Although 'Elsa Sass' may have a pleasant fragrance when grown in other parts of the world it is nearly fragrance-free when grown in Alaska.
- Plants can grow 24"-30" tall and require support when mature due to large buds and flowers.
- Foliage is deep green with wide leaves on thick, strong stems making excellent filler.
- It can take at least four years for a plant to mature, and can require a bit of extra care such as mulching and focused disease and nutrient management.
- 'Elsa Sass' is an excellent garden flower choice but it may be too short to meet the needs of large-scale commercial production.

(Continued next page)



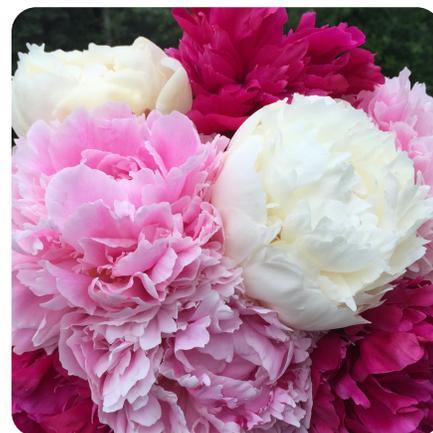
“ **"She is a late bloomer but oh, so worth the wait!"** ”
-Cassy K. Client



Loose, large buds that bloom slowly and average 5-9 inches in diameter when open.



Full double form with velvety petals. Rose shaped flowers are creamy white with little to no fragrance.



We ship 'Elsa Sass' stems mid July through the end of August.

ELSA SASS CONTINUED

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- When used in commercial cut flower applications this variety can be very tricky to harvest and store because most stems may not meet the USDA grades for stem length and many buds do not bloom evenly.
- Small-scale farmer/florists may find that they can give 'Elsa Sass' the time and attentiveness she needs to thrive, in which case she is sure to please both the grower and design clients.
- Must be harvested when the green bud turns white in the center, the bracts are open and the center of the bud has some give.
- 'Elsa Sass' is a late season bloomer, often the last peony we harvest in Alaska and grows well in zones 3-7.
- The bud does not typically water spot after rain, but is very sensitive to heat and will turn brown quickly if exposed to high temperatures, especially once harvested for the vase.



“There are some flowers that are just magical, but this one in particular is what dreams are made of.” - **Martha L. Peony Farmer** ”



Very large buds produce very large flowers!



Pure ivory white with soft, romantic petals. A bride's dream!



'Elsa Sass' steals the show in any application.

DR. F.G. BRETHOUR

'Dr. F. G. Brethour' was introduced by Henry Sass in 1938 and has been impressing growers and florists ever since. With large showy blooms, sturdy stems, fluffy petals, and dark foliage, there is a lot to love about this outstanding peony. It is also only one of a handful of white varieties without crimson flecks or edging on the inner petals.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- Reaching up to 34 inches tall, mature plants should be supported due to the large flower size.
- Occasionally open buds develop in addition to the standard smooth, closed bud style. An important consideration for commercial growers.
- A floriferous variety, many side buds develop along with the main bud. Typically, side buds are removed by commercial growers to encourage growth of the main bud, but in a garden landscape side buds are a welcome feature.
- Wait to harvest until the center of the bud changes from green to its true color. The bracts must be loose and the inside of the bud must have a slight give or it may not open in the vase.
- For most growers this variety is pure white, but as we often see with white peonies grown in Alaska and other cold climate locations, soft blush tones may be present in this cultivar. In some seasons, the blush fades to white as the flower opens, but in cooler years the flower may maintain its soft bush color when in full bloom.



“This was not my initial choice when I ordered my flowers. But wow! Just WOW! I am so happy these are what I decided on.”

- **Adrienne P. Bride**



Loose, large buds that bloom slowly and average 5-10 inches in diameter when open with a light fragrance.



Romantic rose-type bloom, full double. An excellent addition to a private garden or commercial production.



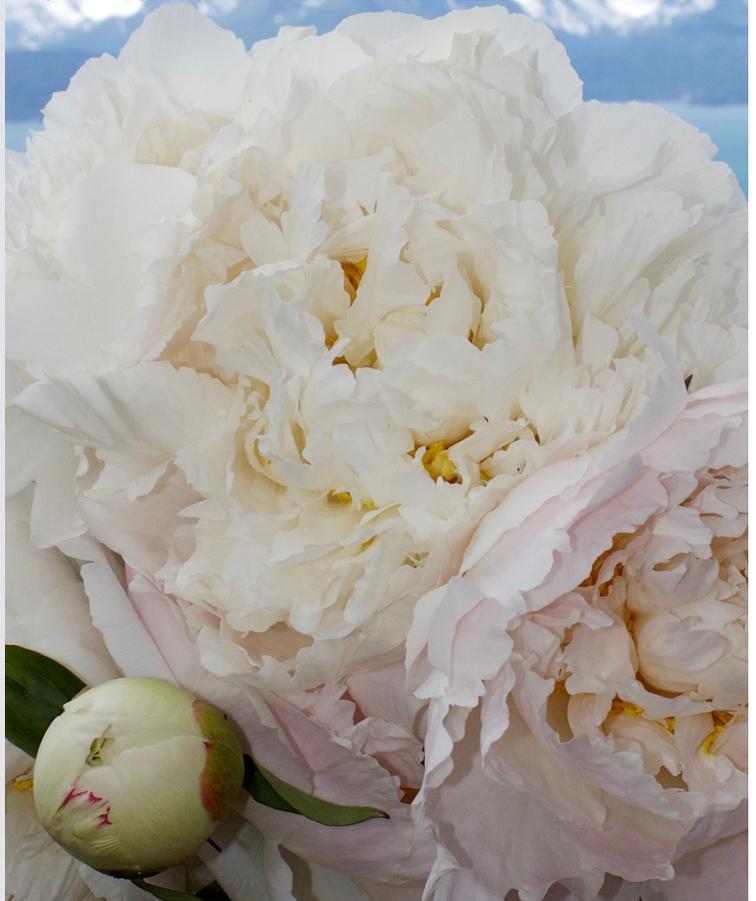
Available late season from mid July to mid/late August in Alaska.

B O W L O F C R E A M

Incredibly pretty white blooms create gorgeous arrangements. Introduced by Carl G. Klehm in 1963, 'Bowl of Cream' won the prestigious American Peony Society Gold Medal in 1981 and remains a very popular variety for commercial growers and designers alike. Full, fluffy blooms with yellow stamens hidden deep within the ruffles and complemented by a light, pleasing fragrance.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- Resembling a giant bowl of fluffy whipped cream, this peony is aptly named for the color and texture it brings to any design.
- One of the largest white peony flowers available. Even the smallest buds are too big for any wearable applications. When fully bloomed they can average 5-9 inches in diameter and sometimes even 11 inches!
- Plants can grow 30-34 inches tall and require support.
- 'Bowl of Cream' is an excellent choice for the commercial cut flower grower fetching top dollar for the highly desirable blooms.
- For most growers this variety is pure white, but as we often see with white peonies grown in Alaska, soft blush tones may occasionally be present in this cultivar. In some seasons, the blush fades to white as the flower opens, but in cooler years the flower may maintain its soft blush color when in full bloom.
- Must be harvested when the green bud turns white in the center, the bracts are open and the center of the bud has some give.
- The bud does not typically show water spots after rain which is especially important for commercial growers.



“Ordered these for my wife. She loved them so much we now have pictures all over the house of them. Thank you!” - **K.R.B.** ”



Loose, large buds that bloom slowly and average 5-9 inches in diameter when open.



Full double form with velvety petals. A mid-season bloomer that grows well in zones 3-8.



We ship this amazing variety mid July through the end of August.

IMMACULEE

Registered in 1953, 'Immaculee' makes an exciting addition to any arrangement with its big blooms and anemone bowl shaped form. Its formidable stems and inspiring, deep green, foliage make this selection an all-around winner. The palest of blush outer guard petals surround its whipped cream inner mass with hidden ruby-tipped seed pods deep in the center and a delicate but pleasing scent.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- A favorite of designers looking for something traditional but also with a little touch of pizzazz. The pink-tipped seed pods are just visible in the center of this beautiful blush variety.
- Plants can grow 30-34 inches tall on strong stems that usually do not require staking and should grow well in zones 3-7.
- For cut-flower production the stems must be cut at nearly ground level to get the required length to meet USDA standards.
- When harvesting 'Immaculee' the bud must turn from green to pale blush and the sides will have a slight give when ready to cut. Must be harvested tight to stay closed in the cooler, but is a reliable bloomer once taken out of cold storage.
- The buds are tall and narrow versus a perfect sphere, which may cause buds appear small, but they will open to a very large bloom within a day or two.
- It can take at least three years for a plant to mature, though Immaculee is easy to grow and not easily susceptible to disease with diligent management.
- The outer petals do not show spotting after rain.



“Cannot go wrong using 'Immaculee' in any arrangement. Unique and handsome bloom.” - Rossi C. Florist



Tight, small buds bloom quickly and average 5-7 inches in diameter when fully open.



Semi-double form with vase life of approximately 5+ days is fairly typical of this bloom form.



An early to mid-season bloomer we ship 'Immaculee' during the month of July.

AMALIA OLSON

This peony has been winning awards since before she was named! Twice this lovely was awarded best seedling in 1953 and 1958, and was also winner of the American Home Magazine Achievement Medal in 1959. But let's not stop there! 'Amalia Olson' was the recipient of the American Peony Society Gold Medal in 2011 and Peony of the year in 2012. With all these accolades it would be a shame to not include her in your farm or garden collection.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

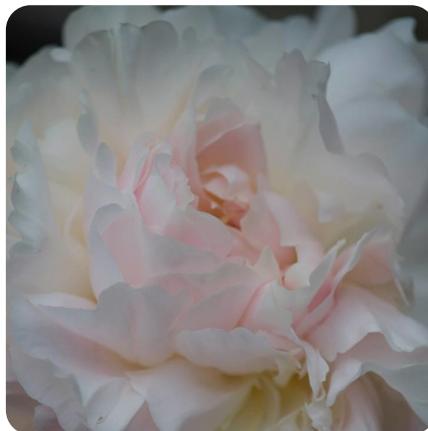
- 'Amalia Olson' was named for Mr. Olson's Mother when registered in 1959.
- Plants can grow 30-32 inches tall and are strong enough to withstand most weather conditions.
- Due to the shape and form of the petals rainwater tends to drain away on its own.
- Although this particular variety is most often listed as a beautiful pure white when fully bloomed, it tends to be a pale blush in the cool growing climate we experience in Alaska. According to the American Peony Society, "It should be noted a blush of pale pink may be seen upon first opening when the flower buds develop during a cool spring warm-up."
- Expect many side buds on 'Amalia Olson', which is a lovely quality for extending the flowering season in the garden landscape. For commercial production, side buds will likely need to be removed.
- A mid to late-season bloomer that should grow well in zones 3-8. The foliage colors displayed by 'Amalia Olson' in the fall are particularly beautiful.
- Harvest when the bud is still tight, shows true color and the base starts to have a little bit of movement and the sepal has a small air pocket under it.



“ I really enjoy 'Amalia Olson' for her coloration, it is like a soft watercolor painting that is different each day.” - **Beth, Commercial Farmer** ”



Tight, small buds that bloom slowly in a full double form averaging 4-6 inches in diameter when open.



Color ranges from pale blush with a golden glow in the very center to pure white with an appealing sweet fragrance.



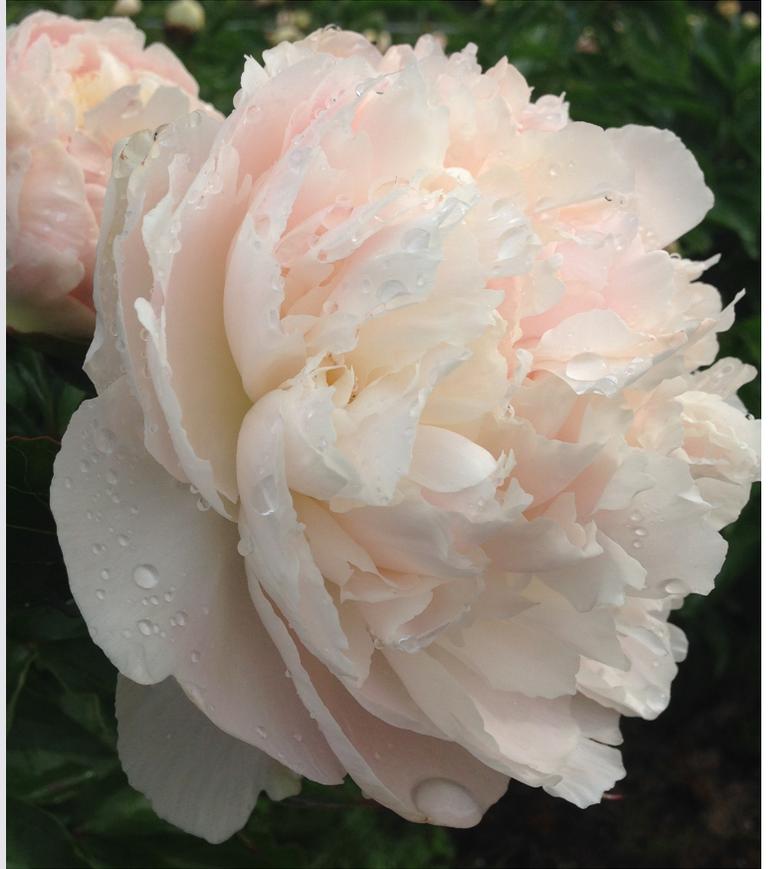
We ship 'Amalia Olson' stems mid July through the end of August.

SHIRLEY TEMPLE

You guessed it! This delicate double peony was named after none other than Shirley Temple herself. With youthful, pale-rose blooms that fade to an enchanting alabaster as the bloom cycle completes, this peony provides a distinguished finale and is a princess as sweet as its namesake.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- The coloration of this flower can vary depending on the region it is grown in. Shirley Temple is generally a pale blush with buttery undertones when grown in Alaska.
- The 'Shirley Temple' peony offers a light yet captivating fragrance.
- Plants can grow 32'-36' tall and require support when mature due to long stems and large flowers.
- It can take three to four years for a plant to mature.
- 'Shirley Temple' is not easily susceptible to disease with proactive management and thrives in zones 4-7.
- Must be harvested when the bud begins to show a subtle blush color and the outermost petals begin to soften, while overall the bud maintains its firmness. It is not uncommon for a few buds per plant to be an open bud style, making it a higher-maintenance choice for commercial cut flower production.
- One of 'Shirley Temple's' many great features is that the petals do not typically show spotting after rain.
- When cut at the proper stage and handled with care, stems should enjoy a vase life of a week or so.



“My mom just had to have these for her 30th Wedding Anniversary. She was over the moon with tears of joy when she saw them.” -Charlene H. ”



Loose, large buds that bloom quickly and average 5-7 inches in diameter when open.



Full double rose form in baby pink blush with hints of pale buttery yellow. Shirley offers a light, yet captivating fragrance.



A mid-season bloomer, we ship 'Shirley Temple' stems mid July - August.

MY LOVE

This gem is what brides and floral designers dream of when they think of blush peonies. This bloom has been described by many as mother-of-pearl to blush when opening and may fade to all white with time. 'My Love' has a stirring and dainty fragrance that will please your senses without being overwhelming. This peony is a good choice for new growers as well as seasoned aficionados.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- 'My Love' was hybridized by Don Hollingsworth in 1992. Don has about 50 peonies registered with the American Peony Society but is best known for his introduction of 'Garden Treasure', 'Many Happy Returns' and 'My Love'.
- Plants can grow up to 34" and may not require staking depending on regional weather patterns.
- Although it can take at least three years for a plant to mature, the breeder reports that this peony increases rapidly and is likely to flower well on young plants.
- Expect many side buds on 'My Love', which is a lovely quality for extending the flowering season in the garden landscape but for commercial production, side buds will likely need to be removed.
- The blooms of 'My Love' all have stamens hidden deep inside the many layers of petals but some flowers do open with a more pronounced concentration of stamens for a striking pop of color that adds to the allure of this variety.
- 'My Love' must be harvested in a tight bud to keep from opening in the cooler. With proper post-harvest handling a vase life of a week or so can be enjoyed.



“Love, love, love, My Love. Perfect for my brides and a big seller at my flower bar.” - Jen N. Florist



Tight, large buds that bloom quickly and average 5-8 inches in diameter when open. A full bloom with a dainty fragrance.



Full double with stamens hidden deep in the petals. Occasionally stamens are more visible adding a unique pop of color.



A mid-season bloomer, we ship 'My Love' stems early July through the end of August.

MOTHER'S CHOICE

'Mothers Choice' is a Glasscock creation introduced in 1950, and received the American Peony Society Gold Medal in 1994. This refined rose-formed bloom is a top pick for any occasion and brides absolutely love 'Mother's Choice'. Her perfect pale blush and creamy white, large double blooms and sweet fragrance has made many a dream come true, and she has been called the perfect wedding flower by our design clients.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- An astonishing heavy, sweet fragrance is guaranteed to draw the attention of any passers by.
- Plants can grow 34 inches tall and should stand upright without support.
- This variety produces a fair bit of sticky 'nectar' while in bud which may attract insects such as bees and ants, even before the flower opens. Although they may be unexpected visitors, they do not harm the bud, nor do they help the peony flower to open. They simply enjoy consuming the nectar that the bud produces.
- When harvesting, look for a bud that has the sepals completely open, all of the greenish tinge has faded into pale blush and one petal may even begin to lift. When squeezed, it should feel like a dense memory foam mattress, a sign that the stem is ready to be cut.
- When left to flower on the bush you should expect to enjoy the blooms for 7-10 days. As a cut flower expect a 7 day vase life with proper handling and conditioning.
- 'Mother's Choice' is an excellent and reliable addition to either the private garden or large-scale commercial production.



“Nothing lovelier in my garden. My absolute favorite peony.”
- Rachel C. Peony grower and enthusiast



Tight, large buds that bloom slowly and average 5-9 inches in diameter when open.



'Mother's Choice' is a mid to late season bloomer, grows well in zones 3-8 and is an exceptionally vigorous and reliable peony.



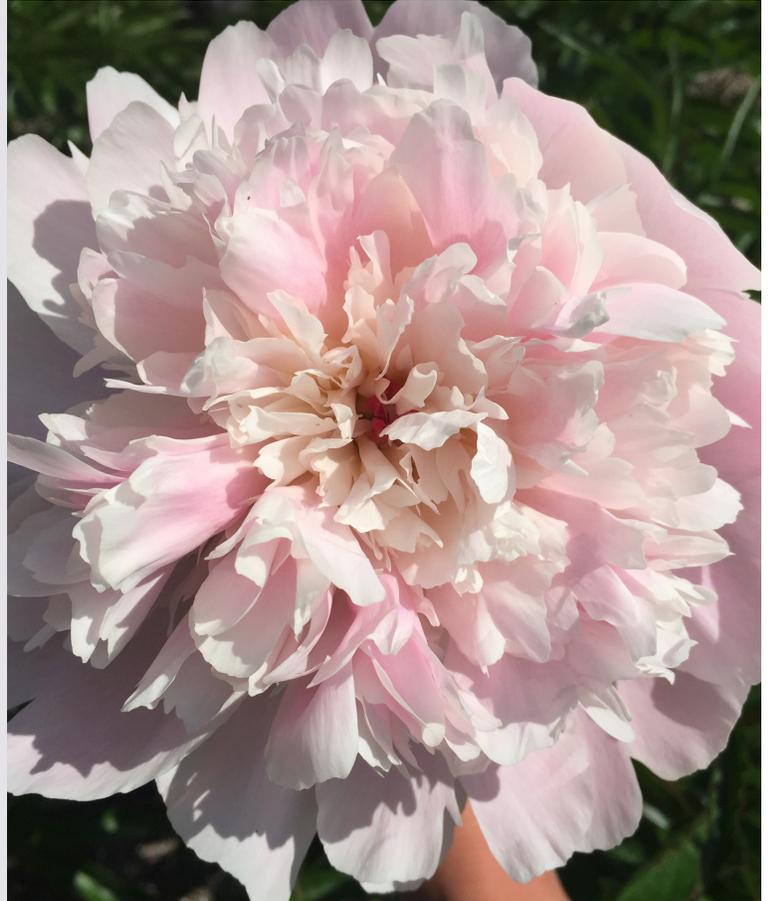
We ship 'Mother's Choice' stems mid July through the end of August.

PECHER

Seeing a field of 'Pecher' in bloom should be on everyone's bucket list. Within hours of removing cut stems of 'Pecher' from the cooler you have created an event unrivaled. Pure blush color dims to silvery white at its conclusion. 'Pecher' blooms can stand alone and be breathtaking, or incorporate a few into a floral design to take it to the next level.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

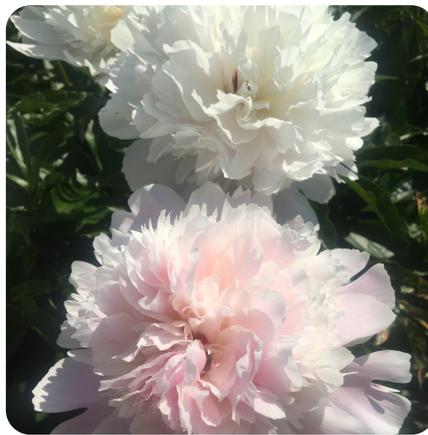
- Double form peonies tend to be the most fragrant varieties and 'Pecher' doesn't disappoint. This is one of the most fragrant and pleasant peonies a grower could ever have the honor to experience.
- Sometimes described as light pink or blush, as the bloom ages it fades to a near white, especially when left to flower on the bush. Occasionally, 'Pecher' has stunning bright pink speckling on some of the inner petals.
- It can take four years for 'Pecher' to reach full maturity reaching 32-35 inches tall and may require staking if your region is prone to rain and wind.
- 'Pecher' is an excellent cut-flower choice for commercial production, however it can be tricky to harvest. The bud must turn from green to pale blush and the sides will have a slight give when ready to cut. Must be harvested tight enough to stay closed in the cooler. 'Pecher' blooms very quickly once removed from cold storage.
- 'Pecher' is also an excellent addition to show gardens due to the bloom that changes color so dramatically and its incredible fragrance.



“Thoroughly love the color in this blush. I've worked with a lot of stems in blush but this one just grabbed me the minute I saw it” -**Laura C. Florist**”



Tight, medium-sized buds bloom quickly and average 5-8 inches in diameter when fully open.



Strong, incredible scent, semi-double, large blooms with densely packed petals.



We ship 'Pecher' July through mid August.

NICK SHAYLOR

'Nick Shaylor' displays blush to light pink blooms carrying intermittent crimson ribbons on the inner petals. This unique variety was awarded the American Peony Society Gold Medal award not once but twice, in 1941 and 1972. Very large blooms and nicely shaped cone-like buds that are reliable openers. 'Nick Shaylor' has been called a "top to bottom bit of perfection" by growers.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- Every bud is a delightful show! Ranging from baby pink to blush or ivory and usually streaked with crimson brush strokes on the tips of the center petals. It is hard to predict what each bloom will open up to look like or how the coloring will evolve either on the bush or in a vase.
- For those sensitive to strong fragrances this may be a perfect peony. Little to no fragrance accompanies the beauty of 'Nick Shaylor'.
- Plants can grow 30-36 inches tall and will perform the best when supported with staking. 'Nick Shaylor' should grow well in zones 3-8.
- Although it can take at least three years for a plant to be fully mature, this particular variety is a reliable bloomer rewarding the grower with buds early.
- 'Nick Shaylor' may take a seasoned hand to get the harvest stage just right. When the bud is showing true color cup your hand in a C shape around the base of the bud and gently squeeze. If the base feels like it has a bit of movement it should be ready to cut.
- Squeezing with a C shaped hand rather than just finger tips prevents the delicate petals from bruising and is a good harvest practice for most varieties.



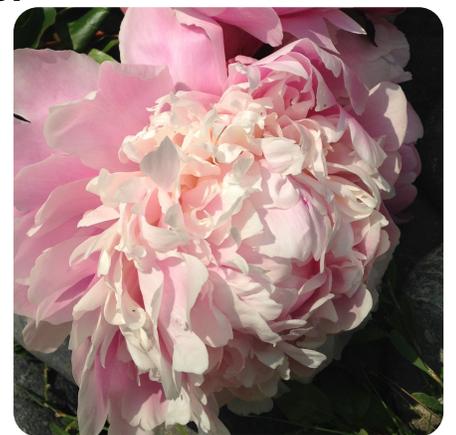
“ With so many color variations the uses for 'Nick Shaylor' are nearly endless. It complements everything I have used it in”
 - Karen L. Colorado Floral Designer ”



Tight, large buds that bloom slowly and average 5-8 inches in diameter when open. A unique cone-shaped bud.



'Nick Shaylor' is a mid to late-season bloomer and is a full double rose form with medium blooms resembling garden roses.



We ship 'Nick Shaylor' stems late July through the end of August.

HERMIONE

'Hermione' tends to grow at her own pace, but before you know it, along come a profusion of extra large buds on long sturdy stems, displaying the prettiest hint of pastel pink peeking out between the sepals right before bloom time. As an heirloom, she retains a rich and wonderful fragrance that will lure admirers to either the field or vase.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- Developed by Hans P. Sass in 1932 'Hermione' is considered an heirloom peony.
- Similar in form to the well known 'Sarah Bernhardt' but a lighter, softer pink (often called pastel pink) with petals that are a bit more frilly and occasionally showing a thin ring of yellow stamens that just barely peek out of the layers upon layers of petals.
- Plants can grow 32-36 inches tall and are strong enough to stand on their own without support.
- 'Hermione' is a heavy bloomer rewarding the grower with many flowers early in maturity, although like most peonies she does require 3-4 years to reach full maturity.
- 'Hermione' is ready to harvest when the bud shows a pastel pink and there is a slight give to the bud.
- When left to flower on the bush you should expect to enjoy the blooms for 7-10 days. When cut in bud stage and cooled in a commercial floral chiller for 48 hours the vase life should be approximately 7 days.
- This particular variety has excellent cooler tolerance, which is an important consideration to commercial farmers.



“A huge flower with huge personality!”
- Samantha R. Peony Enthusiast ”



Tight, large buds that bloom slowly and average 5-7 inches in diameter when open.



Full double form with frilly petals are pastel pink with a strong, pleasing fragrance.



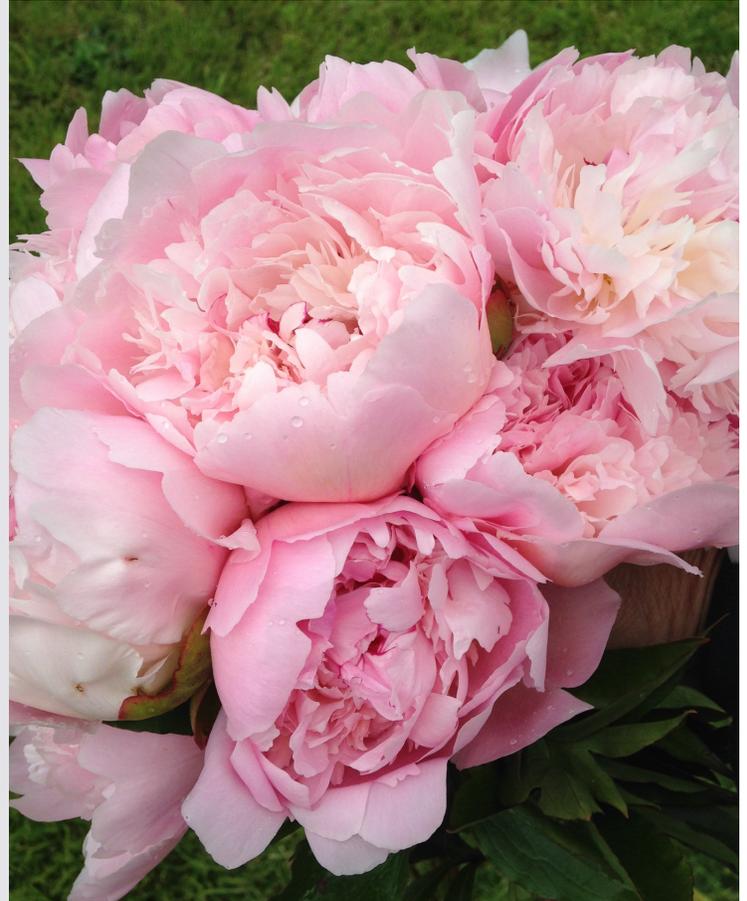
We ship 'Hermione' stems mid July through the end of August.

LA LORRAINE

Delicate and ruffly with a fine fragrance, 'La Lorraine' possesses the perfect amalgamation of peony qualities for either specimen or production plantings. Introduced by Lemoine in 1901, 'La Lorraine' has carried on for over a century because growers absolutely love her unique pinkish ivory coloration and elegant incurved petal form, a true all-star in the garden or vase.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- The color of 'La Lorraine' has been described as shell pink to pale blush and ivory, but may also have a dark rose pink center and a soft glow from the hidden stamens. If you love ombre then this is your peony!
- Occasionally 'La Lorraine' may open with small crimson streaks on the tips of the inner petals.
- For those sensitive to strong fragrances this may be the perfect addition to your garden or vase. Little to no fragrance accompanies the beauty of 'La Lorraine'.
- Plants can grow 24-36 inches tall and though the stems are very strong, it will perform the best when supported with staking due to large, ruffled blooms.
- The lush foliage is beautiful from spring to fall as it changes from glossy green to bright red and yellow.
- When grown in our cool Alaskan soil, the peachy-pink of 'La Lorraine' tends to be a tad more pronounced at harvest time when compared to those stems grown in other areas of the US.
- 'La Lorraine' is relatively easy to harvest. Cut when the buds are still tight, but have a softness to the base and the true color is showing. With proper cut stage and storage it will hold very well in the cooler for several weeks and still be a reliable opener.



“Because of its multi-colored pallet 'La Lorraine' is a versatile beauty that is the shining star of any arrangement.” - Kurt W. Commercial Grower



Tight, large buds that bloom slowly and average 5-8 inches in diameter when open.



'La Lorraine' should grow well in zones 3-8 and is highly resistant to disease when properly cared for.



A full double, mid-season bloomer, we ship 'La Lorraine' stems mid July - August.

SARAH BERNHARDT

Named after a famous actress, this peony likely needs no introduction at all, as she is widely grown and beloved the world over. An idolized peony since 1906 (Lemoine), 'Sarah Bernhardt' is one of the most dependable cut flowers on the market, reliable in the field with an exceptional vase life.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- If you were to grow only one pink peony, let it be 'Sarah Bernhardt' and you will be greatly rewarded with a healthy, prolific, strong peony plant and perfect pink blooms.
- An heirloom variety introduced in 1906, 'Sarah Bernhardt' has been loved by many due to its ease of growth and highly desirable qualities earning it the Royal Horticulture Society's Award of Garden Merit.
- One of the largest pink peony flowers available. Even the smallest buds are too big for most wearable applications. Fully open blooms range from 5-9 inches in diameter.
- As with many full double pink and white varieties, 'Sarah Bernhardt' has a full, sweet, highly desirable fragrance.
- Plants can grow 32-36 inches tall and perform the best with support when mature due to the large buds and flowers.
- This peony even performs well when dried and will retain the pink color that it is famous for.



(Continued on next page)

“If I had to choose one peony it would be Sarah Bernhardt. From garden variety to cut flower she is by far the hardiest and my dream flower.”
 - M. Gerwin, event planner and hobby gardener



Tight, large buds that bloom slowly and average 5-9 inches in diameter when open.



Full double form with endless petals ranging from pastel pink to deep rose pink with a strong, sweet fragrance.



We ship 'Sarah Bernhardt' stems mid July through the end of August.

SARAH BERNHARDT CONTINUED

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- As a plant, 'Sarah Bernhardt' has strong stems and phenomenal foliage that is glossy, bushy and dark green, which adds a beautiful lushness to the garden long after the blooms have gone.
- It can take at least three years for a plant to fully mature for the commercial market, but is often such a strong variety it rewards hobby growers with buds in the early years for personal enjoyment.
- A classic in both private gardens and commercial cut flower production. Excellent vase life averaging 7 days with proper conditioning and handling. When left on the bush to flower 7-10 days of bloom time can be expected.
- 'Sarah Bernhardt' is one of the easiest varieties to harvest. The most successful cut stage is when there is true color showing and the bud has slight give when squeezed at the base. Once the top petal starts to lift it is too soft for commercial applications, but likely still perfect for farmer-florists planning to use the buds within a week.
- 'Sarah Bernhardt' is a mid to late season bloomer and grows well in zones 3-8.



“Every day I must have Sarah Bernhardt. Although a staple in my work, every bloom is still magical.” - **Jessica B. Floral Designer**



Perfect for those new to growing peonies and seasoned aficionados alike.



'Sarah Bernhardt' is consistent and versatile in a variety of applications.



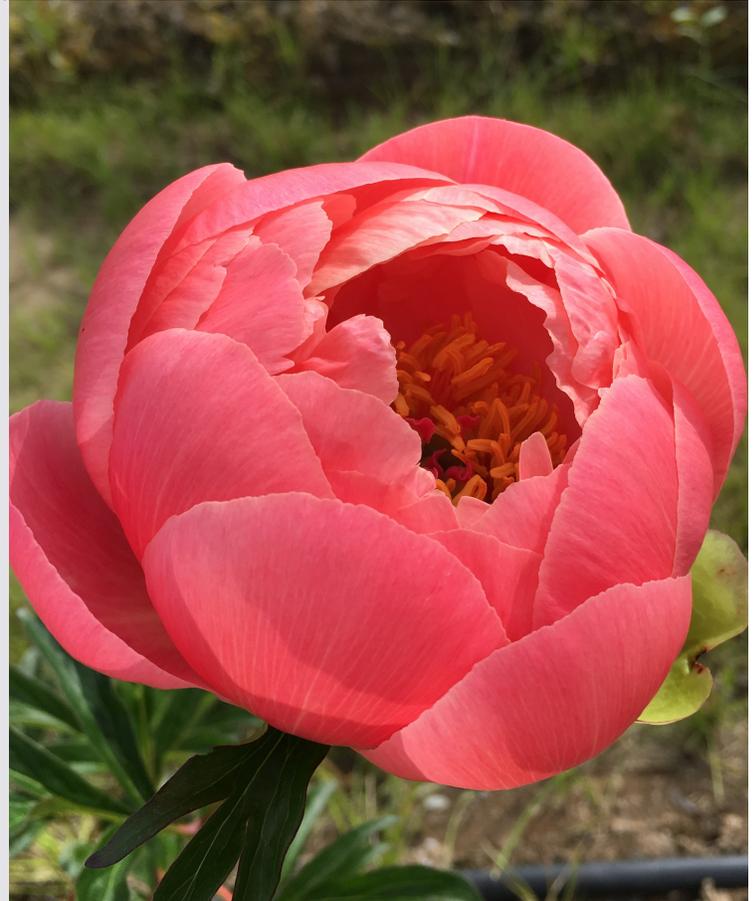
A beloved variety that is easy to grow.

CORAL CHARM

Coral peonies are a sight to behold and leave a deep and lingering impression on our hearts and minds. Their coloration starts as radiant coral and salmon pink at first bloom, slowly changing every day as the color fades to a grand finale of pale apricot or light copper. This color evolution is one of the most endearing and unique features of coral peonies.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- The fragrance can be subjective. Some find the scent appealing, while others find it unpleasant.
- Stems can reach 30-36 inches tall and do not typically require staking. The foliage tends to be higher on the stem and not as abundant as other varieties.
- Coral varieties grown in Alaska are not typically as productive as when grown in other parts of the world. In Alaska, corals tend to be slow to mature, often taking 4-5 years to produce more than a handful of stems. When grown in other parts of the country they have proven to be vigorous growers.
- It has been hypothesized that lower stem count may be due to the parent plant and its inability to tolerate cold climates. (e.g. zone 3). With great care (for example, growing in a high tunnel) some Alaskan farms are able to produce small numbers of coral stems while continued research on over-wintering techniques are tested. Zones 4-8 may be better suited for growing coral peonies.
- Harvest 'Coral Charm' when the buds are still very tight. When there is a small puff of air under the sepals and the bud has a slight give they are ready to harvest. Coral varieties bloom rapidly.



“I can never get enough corals. I love the range of color they display and the fragrance seems to grow as the days pass.” -Terry F. Floral Designer”



Tight, large buds that bloom quickly and average 5-6 inches in diameter when fully open.



Semi-double bloom form with pink tipped seed pods and a ring of golden stamens.



An early season bloomer, we ship coral peony stems in July.

FROSTED ROSE

'Frosted Rose' is a unique variety that evolves in color as it opens, putting on a one-of-a-kind show that results in big blooms and unforgettable frosted pink color variations. A favorite of designers and brides alike, 'Frosted Rose' will forever be at the top of your list once you have had the pleasure of working with this beautiful cultivar.

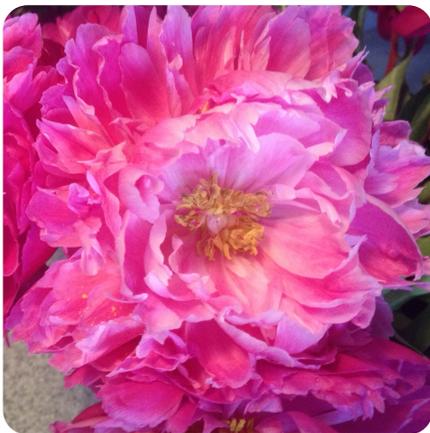
FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- 'Frosted Rose' is a rare variety with limited availability and is always one of the first of our cut-stem offerings to be fully reserved each season.
- A medium to deep rose colored bloom with a frosting of silver along the tips of each of the inner petals. Often yellow stamens are present peeking out from among the many petals.
- The foliage is a dark glossy green, and the unique burgundy stems add to the allure of this particular variety.
- When harvesting 'Frosted Rose' you should wait to cut until you see the first sign of the true deep rose color and the bud has a very slight give.
- 'Frosted Rose' will hold well in the cooler if harvested correctly. When removed from the cooler there should be a 6-7 day vase life if properly cared for.
- 'Frosted Rose' will bloom quickly once removed from the cooler and continue to change color from day to day.
- A mid to late season bloomer, 'Frosted Rose' will help extend the enjoyment of peony season in the garden.

*Photos taken by Tassie Tagarelli



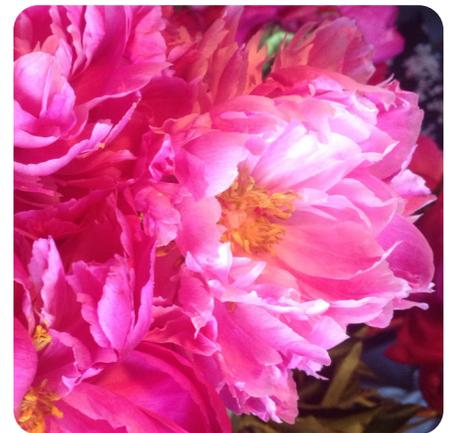
“ Thank you for your gorgeous peonies! The 'Frosted Rose' opened a lot lighter as time went on and is just stunning!!” -Tassie Tagarelli, Florist. ”



Tight, medium buds that bloom quickly and average 5-7 inches in diameter when open.



Semi-double form with three rows of guard petals and yellow stamens.



We ship 'Frosted Rose' stems mid July through the middle of August.

DR. ALEXANDER FLEMING

'Dr. Alexander Fleming' is a popular peony due to its hardiness and captivating fragrance. A vibrant pink ruffled double, it can stand alone in a vase or elevate an arrangement with its gallant color and signature fragrance. In a bridal bouquet, the lovely scent will foster a heartwarming memory which will serve to remind the couple of their special day for years to come.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

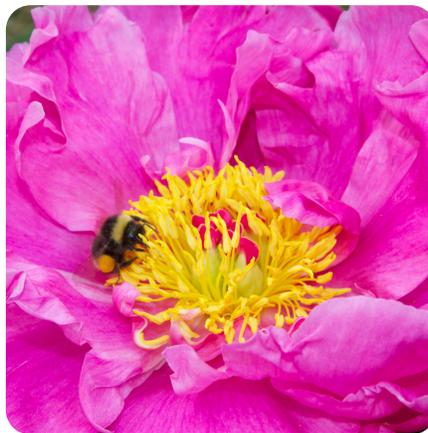
- Developed by the Dutch breeder Blonk in 1950 and named for the Nobel Prize winning scientist who discovered penicillin.
- Plants can grow 30-36 inches tall, may require staking and should thrive in zones 3-7.
- The pinkish-rose colored petals often fade a tad along the edges, lending a beautiful frosted effect to the flower.
- This particular variety has a high number of side buds which can extend the bloom time by up to six weeks! However, for commercial stem sales, these side buds must be hand removed prior to harvest in order to meet USDA grading standards.
- When the plant is immature, or if the growing conditions are not ideal, the plant may produce both semi-double and full double form blooms on the same bush. Tiny yellow stamens are more visible on the semi-double blooms.
- 'Dr. Alexander Fleming' is ready to harvest when the sepals are completely separated showing true color and it feels soft when gently squeezed. Don't let the small bud size fool you, the bud is very compact but it will produce a bountiful bloom.



“ 'Dr. Alexander Fleming' is a hidden treasure in the garden with her small buds and a wallop of fragrance.” - **Becca, Commercial grower** ”



Tight, small buds that bloom slowly and average 5-6 inches in diameter when open.



Full double or semi-double dark pink with a sweet ambrosia floral scent. A pleasant surprise awaits within each bud!



A mid-season bloomer, we ship 'Dr. Alexander Fleming' stems late July - August.

FELIX SUPREME

The supreme gentleman of the field, 'Felix Supreme' has a thicket of soft, feathery petals that put on a show for days as the flower fully opens. Developed by Nick Kriek in 1955 this variety has been highly sought after for over 60 years due to its intense color, vigorous growth habits and densely packed petals.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- Though many have tried to describe the color of this variety, it seems to be characterized as raspberry-red or watermelon-red most often. The color holds true color from harvest to spent vase life, which is an outstanding quality.
- The bold color of 'Felix Supreme' complements a full spectrum of flower colors from whites and pinks to blues and purples.
- When dried the color darkens to a deep burgundy.
- A mid-season bloomer which showcases a fully double form and a light, pleasing fragrance.
- 'Felix Supreme' can grow 32-34 inches tall with attractive dark green foliage. For best performance this variety should be supported to stand upright.
- 'Felix Supreme' produces very few side buds, which is an important consideration for commercial growers as these side buds are typically removed by hand for commercial sale.
- Harvest when there is true color visible and the bud feels like a dense memory foam mattress when squeezed. 'Felix Supreme' has an excellent cooler tolerance and can be expected to have 5-9 days vase life with proper care and conditioning.



“The 'Felix Supreme' is such a unique flower because the bloom seems to grow taller as well as wider each day and the color is so hard to describe.” - **Helen, Floral Designer, Montana**



Tight, medium buds that bloom slowly and average 5-7 inches in diameter when open.



A mid-season full double form with frilly petals and a light, pleasing fragrance.



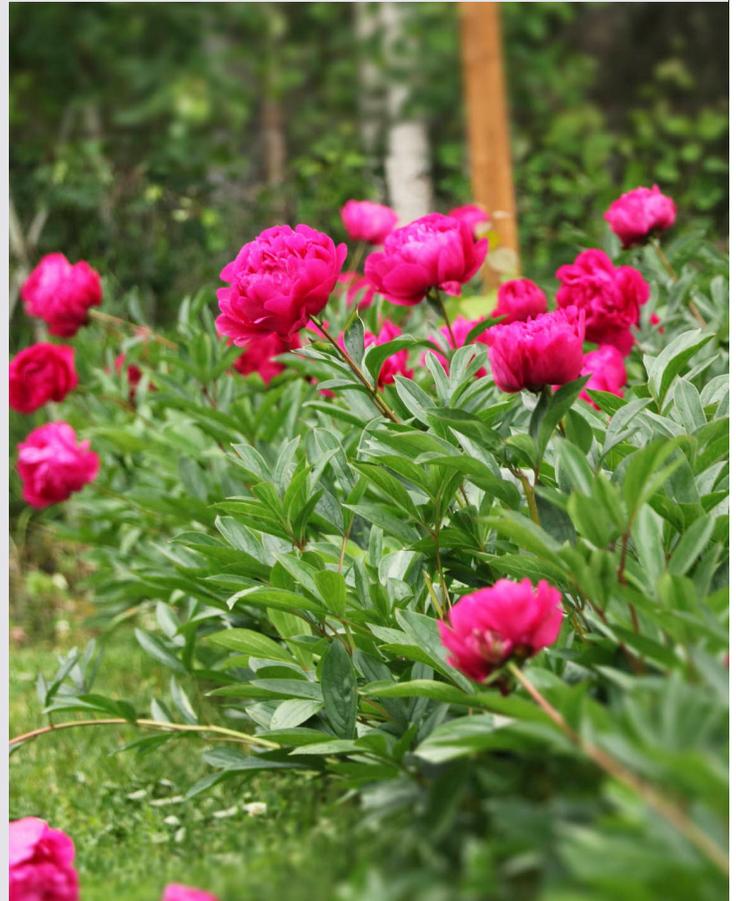
We ship 'Felix Supreme' stems mid July through the middle of August.

K A N S A S

'Kansas' is a vivid and dazzling peony that is loved for the magnitude of its striking color, and is a top choice of floral designers who love its long vase life. 'Kansas' made its grand entrance in 1940 and has since been awarded The American Home Achievement Medal in 1942 and the American Peony Society Gold Medal in 1957.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- 'Kansas' was developed by Myron Bigger at his nursery in Topeka, Kansas. Myron developed more than 53 varieties of peonies during his lifetime and was also an important member of the American Peony Society for 72 years and served as President twice.
- The color of 'Kansas' is hard to describe. It is a vibrant fuchsia color that does not fade even in locations with intense sunlight.
- With little to no fragrance in this peony, the power is all in the color!
- Plants can grow 24-36 inches tall and require support when mature due to large buds and flowers.
- It can take at least three years for a plant to mature, but once mature it is a vigorous and prolific producer.
- 'Kansas' is an excellent choice for commercial cut flower production due to the ease of care and long vase life with proper harvest and conditioning.
- 'Kansas' is one of the best representations of a double rose form, and even resembles a rose when in bud.
- The size of the bud will not determine the right time for harvest because the buds are very compact. Wait until you see true color and the bracts are open.



“We had settled on white peonies, but saw the 'Kansas' and they matched the bridesmaid's dresses perfectly. The color just exploded from the bouquets.” -**S. Reynolds, Mother of the Bride**”



Tight, small buds that bloom slowly and average 5-9 inches in diameter when open.



'Kansas' is an early to mid-season bloomer and grows well in zones 3-8.



Truly a Crown Jewel! We ship 'Kansas' stems mid July through the end of August.

KARL ROSENFELD

An heirloom variety introduced by John Rosenfield in 1908, this classic peony is usually considered 'red' in color, but could be more accurately described as a vibrant raspberry-red or fuchsia-red. Sometimes a striking pop of brightly colored stamens can be seen hiding between the petals as the flower blooms.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- 'Karl Rosenfield' may produce fully-double and semi-double blooms on the same plant, which is a delightful surprise to watch as each bud opens. The semi-double blooms showcase more stamens than the fully-double form on the same plant.
- Plants can grow 24-36 inches tall on strong stems with glossy, lush foliage, and the plants do not usually require staking.
- 'Karl Rosenfield' should grow well in zones 3-8 and it is an early to mid-season bloomer.
- For commercial cut flower sales the buds should be harvested at the first sign of softening and transferred to cold storage immediately.
- When harvested at the correct stage 'Karl Rosenfield' can have a long vase life and is truly a designer's favorite.
- 'Karl Rosenfield' is the perfect choice for mass plantings in the landscape, and the rich color also carries over well to the vase, making 'Karl Rosenfield' one of the best known 'red' peonies on the market.



“A flower lovers delight! The color is so rich and the occasional bright golden center is such a fun surprise!” -**Linda S. Master Gardener** ”



Tight, medium sized, conical buds that bloom quickly and average 5-6 inches in diameter when open.



Semi-double or fully-double raspberry-red with a very light, pleasing fragrance.



A pleasant surprise awaits within each bud! We ship 'Karl Rosenfield' stems each July.

RED CHARM

The red peony against which all other red peonies are measured. Often described as deep ruby or merlot in color, 'Red Charm' is bomb shaped with huge guard petals surrounding a soft ball of ruffled petals at the heart. Introduced by Glasscock in 1944, 'Red Charm' was awarded the Gold Medal by the American Peony Society in 1956. This peony is well known and loved across the globe, it is hard to beat 'Red Charm' for the field, vase and exhibition.

FUN FACTS AND TIPS FOR DESIGNERS & GROWERS:

- 'Red Charm' has super-sized buds with little to no side buds making it an excellent choice for the commercial grower.
- Plants can grow 28-30 inches tall and require support when mature due to the giant buds and flowers.
- It can take at least four years for a plant to mature, but once mature it rewards the grower with many blooms on each plant.
- 'Red Charm' is highly sought after by both garden enthusiasts and floral professionals for the deep red color and perfect form. You simply can't go wrong planting a few (or hundreds).
- When used in commercial cut flower applications 'Red Charm' is a grower's dream. They are relatively easy to harvest at the right stage, hold well in the cooler and have a 7 day+ vase life when cut and stored properly.
- Harvest when the sepals feel like there is a puff of air under them and the buds have a slight give when squeezed with a C-Shaped hand around the base of the bud.
- 'Red Charm' is an early season bloomer, and should grow well in zones 3-7.



“The heart knows what it wants, and that is 'Red Charm' peonies!”
 - **Bridget R. Floral Designer, Washington DC** ”



Tight, large buds that bloom slowly and average 5-8 inches in diameter when fully open.



This peony releases a pleasing, sweet fragrance with a hint of cloves



The first to sell out every year, we ship 'Red Charm' stems July through mid August.

MEET THE FARMERS

We proudly grow all the varieties featured in this guide and thank you for supporting Alaskan family farms!

