

# How To Transplant Peonies In September

September is the best time to transplant peonies. These attractive perennial plants are among the best known and most loved of all garden plants. They have been cultivated since ancient times, and the early red "Ply" cultivated since the time of Ptolemy is still a favorite in many gardens.

Until the last century, most peonies were single ones, but since then many double varieties have been developed that are large and dramatic and just better when cut than the single forms.

THERE ARE BOTH woody and herbaceous types of peonies. The woody or shrubby peonies are natives of China and are the form favored in the Orient. In their native habitat they are woodland plants growing on steep mountain sides.

In our gardens they will grow in partial shade. They do not require full sun.

These "tree" peonies need a reasonably rich, but well-drained soil. Ample moisture is essential, but it should not stand around the roots. Good air circulation is important, too,

but protection from strong winds is needed. A mulch of partly decayed leaves or of small stones will help simulate their natural conditions.

Unlike herbaceous peonies, tree peonies should be planted deeply. The crowns should be set about four inches below the surface. When planting them, a two-foot hole should be dug and filled with enriched soil. It pays to plant them carefully because tree peonies will live longer than the gardeners who plant them.

Peonies will grow in almost any kind of soil, but a fertile soil that holds moisture well is best. They will grow in either sun or part shade, but a location that faces east is not too satisfactory because sun

even when planting a small root.

Put a layer of gravel in the bottom of the hole to insure good drainage, then fill with top-soil enriched with peat-moss or well-rotted manure. Mix in a cup-full of bone meal.

Allow the soil to settle and then set the root of the herbaceous peony so that the crown is only about an inch below the surface. If set too deep the plants may not bloom.

Peonies will grow in almost any kind of soil, but a fertile soil that holds moisture well is best. They will grow in either sun or part shade, but a location that faces east is not too satisfactory because sun

shining on frost-covered buds in early spring can cause damage.

PEONIES HAVE flowers that are fragrant. The colors range from pure white and delicate pinks to deep crimsons. They make a dramatic spectacle in late May and June.

They can be massed along a driveway or used as part of a foundation planting. The shoots of herbaceous peonies are an attractive red shade as they push through the ground in early spring.

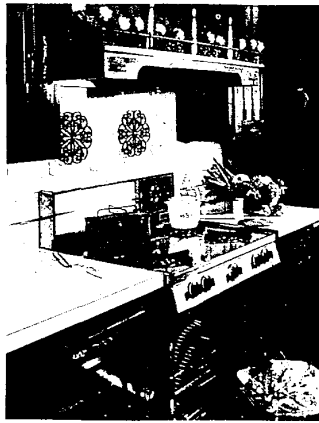
All during the growing season, the foliage is an attractive rich green, so the plants are an asset to the garden even when they are not in bloom.

Grasses Great Air Fresheners

With all the furor about pollution, it is nice to know that your lawn helps with the problem.

Grass, like other vegetation, absorbs carbon dioxide (mostly from auto exhaust and fuel burning) and replenishes the air with oxygen. It also filters, insulates, and buffers, freshening the air, dulling noise and affording protection to soil and surroundings. Unlike some cultivated crops, a good soil retaining chemicals applied to the lawn.

Little ever escapes in runoff or ground water. Fertilizer nitrogen, for example, is almost immediately used by grass, not washed away to stimulate algal growth in some nearby stream.



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Another kitchen comfort is good planning -- work and storage space arranged for saving convenience.

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## Researcher Says Seed Lawn Soon

The best time to seed a lawn in southern Michigan is between Aug. 15 and Sept. 10, according to Dr. James Beard, Michigan State University turf grass researcher.

The next best time is early spring, he says, but excess soil moisture and severe competition from annual weeds can be a problem at that time.

Mid-summer plantings are frequently unsuccessful due to high temperatures, lack of moisture and competition from weedy annual grasses.

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