

Peony

Paeonia lactiflora

QUICK FACTS

USDA ZONES

3–8

SUNLIGHT

Full Sun

BLOOM

Spring

HEIGHT

2–4 ft

DEER

Resistant

POLLINATORS

Yes

AT A GLANCE

The single most common cause of a peony failing to bloom is planting the eyes too deep. Per Clemson Extension, "most failures to bloom are caused by deep planting." The eyes (pink or red buds on top of the crown) should sit no more than 1 inch below the soil surface. Get this right and almost everything else is forgiving.

PLANTING CHECKLIST

- Match site to sun requirements above before buying
- Test soil drainage — dig a 12" hole, fill with water, time it (should drain in 1–2 hrs)
- Dig hole 2x wider than rootball, same depth
- Backfill with native soil — do NOT amend the planting hole
- Water deeply at planting and weekly for first 3 weeks
- Mulch 2" deep, keep mulch 2" away from trunk/stems

FULL GUIDE WITH SOURCES

<https://outdoorplantcare.com/plants/peony-care/>

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