

## Peony

Peonies have been a popular cut flower since ancient times. In Greece, the peony is the symbol of healing because of its many medicinal properties. Their large lush blossoms are available in single, semi-double and double flower heads. Double peonies are sometimes called "Bomb Peony" because of the explosion of petals upon opening. Vase life varies from 7 to 10 days depending on bud stage and environmental conditions. Very good for cut flowers are: Mons Jules Elie, Red Charm, and Sarah Bernhardt.

Try these combinations:

- pink peony –
- pink peony – pink lilac branches
- peony – iris – roses

Peonies are fantastic cutflowers and make perfectly beautiful bouquets on their own, arranged loosely in a vase:



You may want to accent the soft pink shades with blue (campanula or delphiniums), silver (like artemisia) or bronze (heucerella, astilbe or others) – or try adding blue hosta leaves, or Lady's Mantle.

Or make a truly mixed bouquet:



Peonies are also beautiful in tighter arrangements and are often used for bridal bouquets:



### Cut Flower Care

Prepare your vase by washing it with dish detergent and bleach. Fill the vase about 1/3 with water. Add a packet of flower food or plan to change the water every couple of days.

Run cool water in a bowl or basin. Remove all leaves that would be underwater in the vase, as they will rot, reducing the life of the flower. Immerse the flower stems in the water and cut off 1/2 inch of the stem underwater. This will allow water to adhere to the pores that uptake the water into the flower. You can then transfer them to the vase.

Place the vase in a cool location out of direct sun. To open flowers faster place them in warm water in a warm room. To slow the progress, place them in dark, cool room—if desperate—add ice to the water.