



ROMSWOOD FARM

# Bare-rooted Plants

Peonies are thoroughly beautiful in bloom in springtime, with lush foliage all summer long. Peony plants require little maintenance as long as they are planted appropriately. They do not respond well to transplanting and Autumn is the best time to plant. They should be settled into place before the first frost. Peonies need a cold winter with approx. 50-80 hours of frost. This helps the plant to “set a flower”.

Peonies are incredibly long-lived plants lasting approximately fifty to seventy years. So after you have planted them in the right way, you will have the joy of them for many years. These plants have a preference for full sun or partial shade areas together with fertile, humus rich, well-drained soil. Good air circulation around the peony plant can also be beneficial as is protection from strong winds. These conditions help peonies to avoid sickness problems. Peonies prefer neutral soil.

Dig a generous sized hole, about two feet deep and across in a well-drained sunny spot. If the soil is heavy or very sandy, enrich it with compost. Add about one cup bonemeal. Stamp it firmly.

Set the rhizome so the eyes face upward on top of the firmed soil, placing it so the eyes are only 2 inches (5cm) below the soil

surface. Take care when backfilling not to push the peony deeper.

Water Thoroughly.

Don't mulch. The peony rhizome needs to feel the cold of the winter frosts.

Annual care. Peonies are greedy feeders so cow and/or chicken manure as they "go to sleep" (Autumn), and to "wake them up" (Spring) will help them establish quickly and supply them with the nutrients they need. Depending on your soil's ph., a cup of agricultural lime per plant in Autumn will also keep them happy.