

q floral gossip: **with MERCEDES SARMINI**

Common Name – Peonia lactiflora

Latin name – Peony (the Perennial variety)

Family (Tribe) - Paeoniaceae

RUFFLED BLOOMS RESEMBLE SWANS AND FLAMINGO'S



Spring time to early Summer time cutflower - AVAILABLE NOW! Limited Time ONLY! 6 – 8 Weeks Availability

Gender – Female (high heels) and Male (sneakers)

2 Types of Peony – Perennial = Male Tree Peony = Male

Women - Peony comes in root form which is the Tree Peony variety (shrub) can last up to 10 years, just cut back the dried out branches annually for maintenance (does not die back into the ground as its cousin the Herbaceous, prune when blooms have died out, cut only the split ends no big hair cut as it will affect the blooms to come out the following year). From Japan.

Men – Are the Rhizomes variety (Ginger looking root) they are planted in Autumn, spring up in Spring and die out in early Summer mid-December. Perennial variety. Its Herbaceous. Cut right back to ground level after season is over. From China.

Anniversary – 12th

Birth Flower - N/A

IN CHINA PEONY MEANS – “BEAUTIFUL”

· 'Peony Rose' - The Peony message is I will make your marriage strong and prosperous. Peony Rose is a flower used also for a support system, think of it as a friend who is your support your ROCK!!! It's great to have around you in the lead up for an important interview, surgery or making an important announcement. Great for distant healing, so if your praying for a loved one to get better in another state or country, Mr and Mrs Peony is the cut flower to have around to manifest your PRAYS! Peony is native to China, Tibet and Siberia, plays a large role in Chinese New Year Celebrations, and Indiana state Emblem. Double blooms of Peony originate from China, double blooms means more fragrance.

Flower Care - Peony is a Waterholic

1. Keep cool at all times.
2. Strip leaves from the lower half of each stem and wash stem ends thoroughly.
3. Recut at least 2 cm off each stem (tree Peony) Sneakers and (Herbaceous Peony lactiflora) Heels, and place in water immediately.
4. Do not bash or split stems. As this affects the vascular system, which will affect its water consumption
5. Always use a preservative as this will help buds to open and maintain open flowers.
6. Replace vase water with fresh preservative every day. (high maintenance for great visual and scent reward)
7. Put the vase in a warm, but not hot room. Luke water with Sugar -The warmth will help speed up the bloom process, but you don't want to cook the peonies, so make sure that you also keep it away from direct sunlight and heating vents. TIP - If you're after the Bloomed EFFECT
8. If buds have started to open up and you really need them to open up more, you can help them along by VERY carefully and gently opening up the bloom with your fingers. Slightly push back the calyx (the outer green petal-like covering) and outer petals to help it start to open up more.

TIP: IF YOUR FLOWERS HAVE BEEN OUT OF WATER FOR MORE THAN 15 MINUTES, USE WARM WATER AFTER CUTTING STEM, AS IT TRAVELS FASTER UP THE STEM TO REVIVE THE SLEEPING BEAUTY.

What to look out for when purchasing?

Buy when the petals are starting to open and buds have clear colour;

Green buds will not last as long as coloured buds and fully open flowers will last about half as long as coloured buds;

Avoid bunches with fully open flowers with torn or creased flowers.

Petals should be free of brown blemishes

Avoid bunches with brown tips on leaves.

Best to buy - when they are fresh cut and still in bud stage, because it allows you to enjoy the full blooming process. If you get peonies that are already fully open, they will look gorgeous but will only last a few days at most.

· In Australia, Peony is grown outdoors in fields -Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

· Signs of aging – the petals feel and look weak, leaves on stem dry out and fall downwards and the colour of the bloom starts to fade.

· Associated chakra Balancing - Root, Sacral and Heart

· Colours – peach, white, red, yellow (rare) shades of pink

· Season – Spring to early Summer (mid-December)

· Vase life – 6 – 10 days (if bought in Bud) – depends on the Variety.

· Cousins – (the only CHILD) lol - No Cousins - 33 known species so far and counting

· Flower food – Yes - Let's talk about the ingredients 25 ml Bleach 25 White Vinegar 10 teaspoons of Sugar –WHY??? Extra KMS

· Fragrance - Sweet (Feminine)

· Remember all cut flowers need semi light - as photosynthesis is a food source for its wellbeing and longer vase life

Upon your flower delivery - don't worry if the blossoms look wilted and the cut ends are dry. Re-cut the stems to expose clean fresh tissue and place upright in a bucket containing warm water. I allow at least 24 hours for opening especially if the flowers are wanted to decorate a special event.

Ethylene sensitive – Can be

· Filtered or burped water in Vase (medium fill). Does well in Floral foam.

· Avoid 'don't place near fruit bowls esp. with ripening fruit and vegetables, tap water, cooling and heating i.e. air conditioning and cigarette smoke.

· Great use in floral crowns, bridal bouquets, fantastic in wreaths or just on their own in a vase.

· Edible – Yes - In China the fallen petals & leaves are parboiled and sweetened as a tea-time delicacy. Peony water was used for drinking in the middle ages – great medicinal benefits. Peony is said to manage bladder issues, jaundice and nightmares. Add peony petals to your summer salad or try floating in punches and lemonades.

· Mr and Ms Peony has hairy legs so removing the leaves (shaving of the legs) is necessary if you want to enjoy them in a vase filled with water.

FLOWER LANGUAGE (floral communication)

– Ancient Greeks and Christians from the middle ages believed Peonies were a symbol for healing was used to treat stomach pain, bladder issues, jaundice AND NIGHTMARES!

– Peony in Greek Mythology gets its name from a Greek myth, in which Paeon a physician to the GODS angered his teacher Asclepius the GOD of medicine and healing. When Asclepius threatened to kill Paeon out of jealousy of course, Zeus saved him by changing him into Peony. There are other myths of course, but I like this one BEST!

Makes a great name for a GIRL, Peony along with other cut flower names like - Daisy, Lily, Rose, Ivy, Poppy, Iris, Daphne, Jasmine, Dahlia, Clover and Camellia, just to name a few.

Artist – Vincent van Gogh, painted the beautiful Peony. Vincent painted a few flowers I remember.

Peony, enhances your energy, gives you're the support you need for future times, heals conflict abroad, has the power to help with distance healing and sending love to loved ones afar.

For more information, or to contact Mercedes, go to www.flowersbymercedes.com.au OR <https://www.facebook.com/Floral-Gossip>