

Peony Sarah Bernhardt

# A passion for Peonies

by Martin Rouse, Just Peonies



Here-in lies the ramblings of a madman and self confessed plant-a-holic...

I fear I am not alone in having to live with an addiction that manifests itself as the excessive procurement of 'pretties'. I stand before my fellow sufferers admitting to the concealment of purchases from loved ones and to the emptying of the bank account to satisfy my affliction. Do not pity me folks, I have thoroughly tilled and prepared my bed, and so shall I lie in it.

And so Just Peonies was born out of such behaviour. My Herefordshire nursery now boasts many special varieties of this wonderful and versatile plant, perfect for small or large gardens. I truly believe there not to be one flower that can compete with the sheer beauty of a peony bloom in late May early June. Many true wonders of nature precede her, and many will follow on from where she leaves off, her fleeting beauty intoxicating our senses.

Fellow admirers please close your ears to historic tales relating to difficulties involved with peony appreciation. She does not ask for much, her demands are not excessive; she will reward you and continue doing so for decades to follow.

Provide her with a sunny spot within your oasis of calm, do not crowd her, for there is nothing she loves more than to be the centre of attention. Allow her roots to thrive within a soil substrate that is well drained and benefiting from a little added organic matter. Is this too much to ask? I fear not, and as a reward for her centre stage



Peony Cytherea

performance, treat her to a generous handful of bone meal early spring and autumn.

No more no less, that is all she asks, and when she has spent herself for our pleasure, tidy her away late autumn. She will return, next year, and the year after, and so on, to grace our lives with her unrivalled beauty.

## A new business in bud – introducing Just Peonies

'We will be offering a selection of up to 40 true to name varieties including classic favourites such as 'Sarah Bernhardt' and 'Duchess de Nemours', alongside such rare gems as 'Etched Salmon' and 'Claire de Lune'. Many are supplied in 10L pots with 7.5L size as a minimum. A Peony care booklet is provided with each plant containing essential guidance for the novice peony grower.

Just Peonies

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Peony Bridal Gown



Peony Lemon Chiffon



Peony Red Charm



Peony Duchess de Nemours