

# Gardening with Sharon



## Peony Comparison Chart

A Guide to Choose the Right Peony for Your Garden Space

	Garden	Tree	ITOH	Fernleaf
<b>Plant Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- shrub-like</li> <li>- abundant flowering</li> <li>- vigorous grower</li> <li>- very hardy</li> <li>- fragrant</li> <li>- grows fresh from the ground each spring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- shrub-like</li> <li>- flowers are typically semi-double</li> <li>- woody stems</li> <li>- new growth comes from woody stems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- cross between garden &amp; tree peonies</li> <li>- large semi double flowers</li> <li>- abundant foliage</li> <li>- long bloom time</li> <li>- vigorous grower</li> <li>- grows fresh from the ground each spring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- shrub-like with unique dissected leaves</li> <li>- grows fresh from the ground each spring</li> <li>- very hardy once established</li> </ul>
<b>Bloom Time</b>	- early, mid, late spring varieties	- late spring to early summer	- late spring to early summer	- early spring



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<b>Blossom Colours</b>	- corals, pinks, reds, whites, yellows	- corals, pinks, purple, yellows, whites with or without flares	- unique combinations of corals, pinks, orange, purple, yellow, whites with or without flares	- red shades
<b>Zone Rating</b>	3-8	4-9	3-8	2-8
<b>Grow Location</b>	Full Sun - minimum of 6-8 hours of direct sun			
<b>Crown Planting Depth</b>	- 4-5 cm (1.5-2.0") below soil line	- plant graft union 10-15 cm (4-6") below soil line	- 4-5 cm (1.5-2.0") below soil line	- 4-5 cm (1.5-2.0") below soil line
<b>Staking</b>	- double flowering: yes - single flowering: maybe	- not necessary	- usually	- sometimes

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<b>Spring and Summer Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Check soil hydration regularly for the first 3 years, supplement when dry. Peonies become quite drought hardy once established.</li><li>- avoid high nitrogen fertilizers</li><li>- deadhead blossoms when flowers have died back</li></ul>			
<b>Fall Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- cut back foliage in late fall, leaving 8-10 cm (4-6") of stem</li><li>- premature trimming can result in decreased flowering the next year</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- allow foliage to die back naturally, do not cut back woody stems as new growth comes from the stems</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- cut back foliage in late fall, leaving 8-10 cm (4-6") of stem</li><li>- premature trimming can result in decreased flowering the next year</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- cut back foliage in late fall, leaving 8-10 cm (4-6") of stem</li><li>- premature trimming can result in decreased flowering the next year</li></ul>