



A florist's guide to peonies



A FLORIST'S GUIDE TO

peonies

The peony

This beautiful flower is native to Asia, North American and Southern Europe and, in the UK, peonies are best bought between early April to the middle of July. It is possible to get your peonies at other times of the year, from Israel and Japan, but they're usually stomach-churningly expensive and, for a small florist, the stress of long haul shipping generally isn't worth it.

A peony's colour palette is incredibly varied and the flower is available in from pinks, corals, whites, creams, cherises, reds, burgundies, peaches and even yellows. Some are also very sweetly scented too, where as others, like the beautiful Coral Charm, have no sent at all.

Buying

Firstly, decide on how mature you want your peonies to be. If you buy them tight (in a little ball) it can be a lot of risk and work to get them to open in time. You can also buy them with a little more colour showing means you can condition them as normal and, provided they're kept in relatively cool conditions, they'll open with little fuss.

If you need them immediately you can buy them fully open. They'll last for one or two days.

It's worth noting that tightly closed peonies can take up to seven days to open and in some instances may not open at all. It's always worth being a dew extra just in case.



Tightly closed

A little colour showing



Conditioning and care

Keep your profile image the same across every social media channel you use. This helps people to recognise you and your business quickly and keeps your brand consistent.

Once you've received your peonies, unwrap them gently and remove two thirds of the stem's foliage. Cut the stems diagonally and place them into a deep bucket of fresh water. Keep your peonies away from any heat sources, including direct sunlight, unless you'd like them to open quicker.

If you buy your flowers when they're tightly closed and, after one or two days, they don't look like they're opening, wipe the bulb with a damp cloth and a small amount of fairy liquid to remove the sap that could be sticking the petals together.

Once the peonies are open, separate them into different vases to avoid squashing them. This also helps to prevent sweating and mould growth.

Using peonies in arrangements

Peonies are best used in water or, if you need to, foam and, because of their size, they're better used in larger arrangements. Use stems that are almost fully open but not so open that you can see the whole flower or they may drop before you need them to.

Peonies are lovely on their own in bridal bouquets or with other seasonal blooms, such as achemillia mollis, sweet peas, roses, lavender and herbs. The leaves are best removed entirely for bouquet work as they add very little visually. These flowers also work well in punch bowls or urns or just as one stem in a small votive - they're incredibly beautiful on their own.



Peonies and Instagram

From May until June your social media will no doubt be awash with peonies. As a single stem, in an arrangement or in their last few, full, fat days, these beauties are always a hit on Instagram. We've rounded up some of our favourite #peonyposts to show you different ways to capture this beautiful flower.

Varieties we love

Coral Charm; Angel Cheeks; Sarah Bernhardt; and Red Charm.



@bowsandarrowsflowers



@floraandfaunax



@fjura_



@ira.volkova.art



Leafy 
Couture

WWW.LEAFYCOUTURE.CO.UK