



Hybridizer/Originator Profile

Roy Klehm

Illinois/Wisconsin, USA

Roy Klehm is an American hybridizer and plantsman who ran one of the most well-known specialty nurseries in the world – Song Sparrow Nursery. Song Sparrow nursery was the product of a multi-generation business and many of the offerings included genetics from earlier family member's work. He introduced numerous high quality herbaceous peonies from his own hybridizing program as well as others who sold or offered their plants to him for distribution. Having a keen eye for selection many of his peonies have excellent plant habits and are unique. Under Roy's oversight, many new and unusual peonies were made available to the masses through Song Sparrow Nursery and many have wide distribution. He is a past President of the American Peony Society and was instrumental in keeping the organization afloat during hard times.

Woody peonies were also of great interest and Roy was responsible for preserving many of the rare Saunders and Daphnis hybrids during the period in which they were not popular. Additionally, he worked with other woody peony hybridizers and enthusiasts to amass a huge collection of diverse plants. His associations with woody peony enthusiasts and hybridizers included a who's who list – David Reath, Nassos Daphnis, Bill Seidl, Toichi Domoto, Peter Smithers, William Gratwick and Nate Bremer.

Song Sparrow Nursery is no longer open for business and Roy enjoys retirement at his home in Illinois. His accomplishments are many and will be remembered as an "ambassador supreme" for the peony world.

For further cultivar information visit the American Peony Society's Peony Registry and search for Klehm. URL: <https://americanpeonysociety.org/cultivars/peony-registry/>