



Hybridizer/Originator Profile

Don Hollingsworth

Missouri, USA

Don Hollingsworth is an American born hybridizer and is known for producing some of the finest herbaceous hybrid peonies. His well-known nursery, Hollingsworth Peonies, has been a staple for peony enthusiasts for over 50 years. Hollingsworth Peonies still exists under different ownership and his legacy lives on within this entity. His use of diverse parent material and dedication to hybridizing early blooming, double form herbaceous hybrids with excellent landscape capabilities are recognized worldwide. Hybridizers who recognized and used his plants extensively in their own programs included: William Seidl, David Reath, Nate Bremer and numerous other hybridizers.

Among some his finest introductions are the intersectional peony 'Garden Treasure' and herbaceous hybrid 'Command Performance'. 'Garden Treasure' is an outstanding garden plant, but is of equal value as a cut flower. 'Command Performance' is recognized as an excellent cut flower and is a plant of unusual beauty. Many of Don's newest herbaceous hybrids are now just reaching distribution, including an early yellow double herbaceous hybrid, named 'Spring Sun', which shows much promise in the improvement of yellow herbaceous peonies.

Don is a past American Peony Society president (2 terms) and is responsible for a number of outstanding programs which continue to date. The Award of Landscape Merit, which recognizes peony cultivars possessing excellent landscape attributes was instituted by Don and is of value for any gardener wishing to include peonies which not only have excellent flowers but superior plant attributes. As an author, Don wrote many educational articles which address a wide range of growing and recognizing flower forms. He is considered one of the top modern-day ambassadors of the peony and is respected worldwide for his multifaceted work with the peony.

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