



Solaris Farms

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Herbaceous and Intersectional (Itoh) Peony Planting Instructions



Do not use peat packing material as soil for planting.
Do not use commercial based soil mixes.
Do not plant peonies in containers.
Know your soil before fertilizing.

Unpack the box by removing the liner bag and cutting it open, and loosening the contents – never pull roots from the bag within the box, as damage may occur. The best time to plant is in the fall. Cool-damp soils are conducive to new root growth, and the plants will establish prior to the coming year's growing season. This allows the peony plant to support its new foliage and store energy during its first full year in its new location.

Select a location that is on high ground, away from competing trees and shrubs, and receives at least 6 hours of direct sunlight. A little time spent thoroughly preparing the soil will ensure long-term cultural success. All peonies prefer a sunny, well-drained location. **Never plant in an area that becomes wet** at any time of the year. The best soil for these plants is friable and well-drained soil, but clay soils often grow peonies very well (do not add manure and peat). Cultivating the soil to a foot or more in depth before planting is desirable, but it can be less if the soil is difficult to work with. Place the root system in the hole so that the crown of the plant (which has eyes on it) is facing up and will end up approximately 2 inches or less below the surface when completely planted. Fill the hole $\frac{3}{4}$ th of the way up with soil and soak it with water to settle the soil particles around the root system. Then fill the remainder of the hole with soil so that there is a slight mound of soil over the planting hole. This will help prevent water from settling over the plant in case of wet weather. Lightly tamp or press the soil down. Do not water further unless you are in a drought situation. New plants do not need much water. For the first winter, it is a good idea to place pine boughs over the planting location to mitigate frost heaving and remove them immediately in the spring to avoid wet soils below. Please mark the location of the plant in your garden so that it isn't trampled during fall clean-up or suffer another mishap.

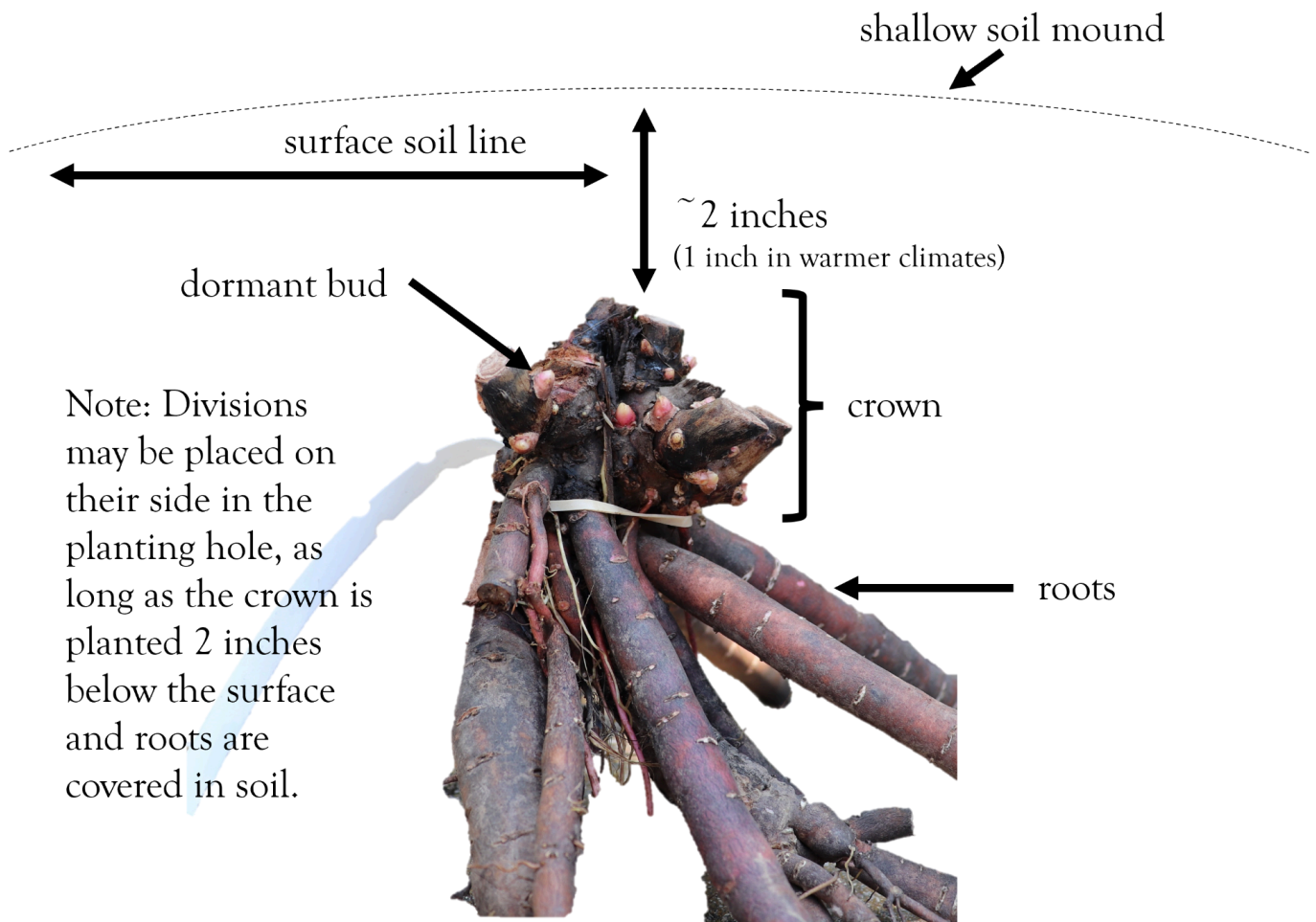
Plant and **treat Intersectional (Itoh)** plants as you would herbaceous plants. Divisions of this type are often oddly shaped and look difficult to plant. These plants do not have to be upright; they may be planted on an angle or on their side. Some people mistakenly allow the crowns and stems of these plants to stick out of the ground after planting. **The entire root, crown, and any stem tissue must be planted below ground level so that no part is visible after planting** (they are not woody or tree peonies).

A few growing points to remember...

- 1) **Do not use mulch** near plants, as this will cause the soil in the area to remain wet and kill the plants.
- 2) Plants typically take 2 to 3 years to perform optimally.
- 3) Plants will be short in the first year of growth.
- 4) Flowers during the first and second seasons may not be typical in form, size, and presentation. You may not see flowers in the first year, which is normal.
- 5) Avoid the temptation to water your plants unless drought conditions are present. Excess water is the enemy of peonies.
- 6) Cut stems and foliage down to the ground in the fall and remove this debris from the garden, as it can harbor disease that will affect your plant in the coming years. Do this each season.

See back for Herbaceous/Intersectional Planting Guide image.

Herbaceous/Intersectional Peony Planting Depth Guide



Further information about herbaceous/intersectional peony culture and care may be found on our website at:

<https://solarisfarms.com/culture-care/herbaceous-paeonia/#>