



# Peony & Iris Collection and Care

*June 1, 2010*

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Our Peony and Iris collections here at the Garden are planted together in a bed in the Color Garden section of the Perennial Garden since the growing requirements are basically the same as they like full sun and will drained soil. They are both very common garden plants with hundreds of varieties to choose from.



Iris have thick underground stems called rhizomes which have the actual roots shooting off from them. When planting it is important to keep the top of the rhizome just below the soil surface because if the rhizome is too deep it may get too wet and rot but you want it deep enough so the roots get some moisture. Iris can be divided and planted any time of the year, just be sure each division has at least one fan of leaves attached to the rhizome. It is good to prune off the blossoms and stalks right after they finish flowering as deadheading these Iris will prevent them from beginning to produce seeds, which may exhaust the plants available energy supply too much for next years growth which can limit the amount of flowers the plant may produce.



Peonies have a fleshy root structure called a tuber which is best to plant in the fall. Each tuber clump should have at least 3 to 4 eyes or buds where there stems will shoot from but keep in mind that Peonies can not be easily divided or transplanted. Even when initially planted they may take a couple years before the first flowers appear. Peonies also need to be staked early in the season to prevent the heavy blooms from flopping to the ground and possibly damaging the stem of the plant. Be sure to cut back the foliage of Peonies all the way down to the ground in the fall before winter to prevent fungal disease from spreading to next year's growth in the spring. Never cut down Tree Peonies as they are woody and the stems do not die back the same as the common Herbaceous Peonies.

Other plants that will be blooming here at the Garden in the next couple weeks will be our Delphiniums, Goats Beard, Foxglove, Climbing Hydrangea, and Bottle Brush Buckeyes.