

Peony Cultivation Research

- Cultivar evaluations
- Soil amendments
- Spacing
- Shading to delay snowmelt and flowering
- Winter mulching/snowmaking
- Disease/insect pest monitoring

Background information

- Kansas State University - Karen Gast
- Klehm's Nursery
- Here and Now Gardens- Paul Sansone

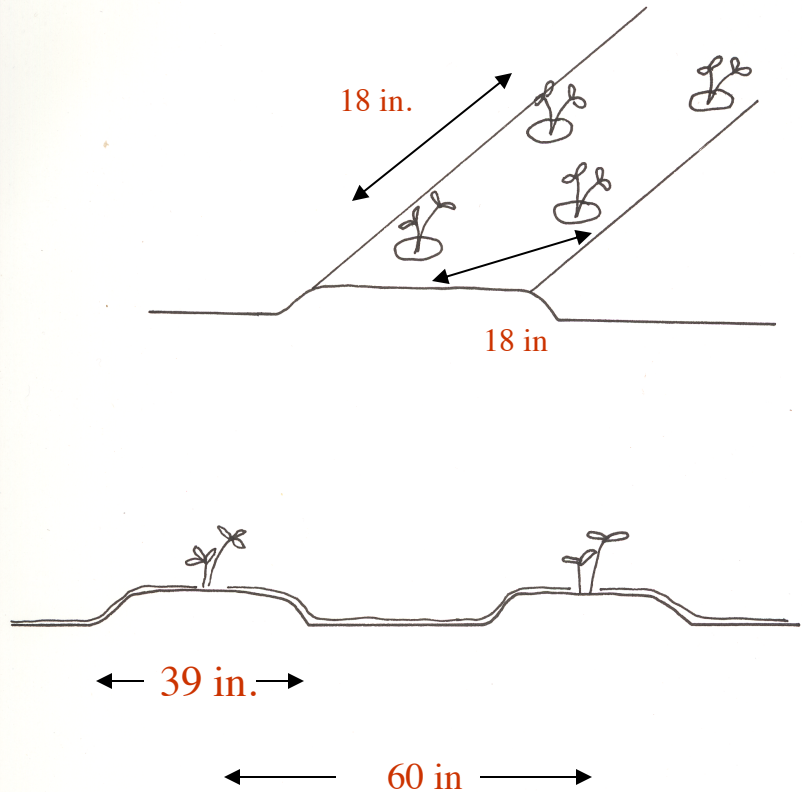
Cultivar evaluations

- Begun in 2001
- 30 cultivars
 - Late season
 - Stem length > 24 inches
 - Recommended as cut flowers



Planting

- South slope
- Fairbanks silt loam soils
- Overhead irrigation yr 1, 2 then trickle
- pH 6.4
- Landscape fabric
- Fertilizer 10-20-20 4 lb/100 sq ft



Rejects

- Died out
 - Nancy Nichols
 - Vivid Rose
- Poor performers (< 3 flowers per plant)
 - Gardenia
 - Better Times
 - Mons. Jules Elie
 - Raspberry Sundae



Top 5 performers



Dr. Alexander Fleming



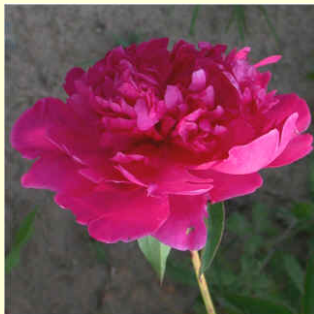
Duchess de Nemours



Felix Crouse



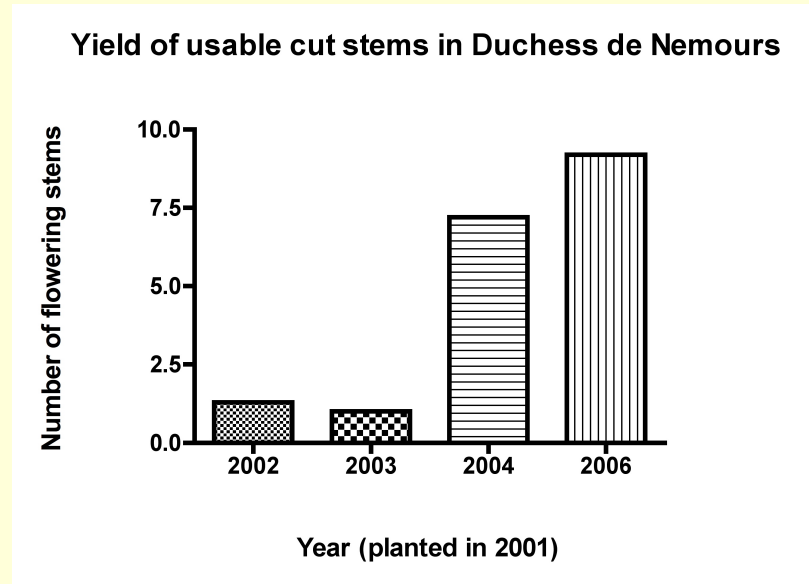
Sarah Bernhardt



David Harum

Top 5 cultivars

- Tallest, strongest stems
- 7- 9 blooms per plant
- Double or semi double
- Flower quality



Spacing/soil amendments

- -begun in 2002
- 12, 17, 24 inches between plants in rows
- Silt loam
- Lemeta peat
- Garden compost



Shading to delay snow melt and bloom



Making snow for winter protection

- Lots of water
- Temps below 25°F
- Shut off = freeze up
- Time consuming
- Garden hose + Compressor + power washer + wand
- Mid winter thaw = disaster



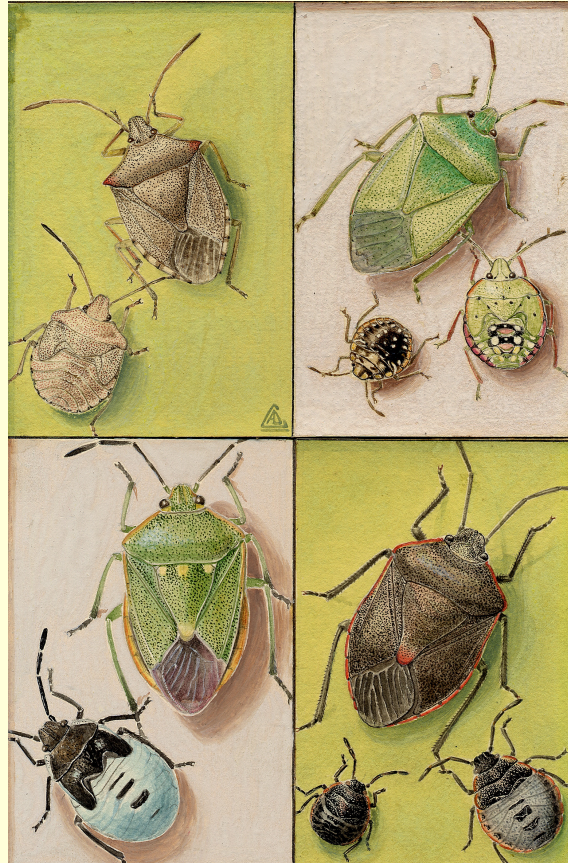


Botrytis blight

Thrips



Lygus (stink) bug



Omeo Peonies



- Oldest (20 yrs) and largest peony growers in New Zealand
 - Tony and Judy Banks
 - Alexandra, New Zealand (South Island)
 - Single family farm (formerly dairy)

Peonies and other cut flowers

- 40 varieties of peonies
- Late October to mid December
- Holiday season
- Reds and whites most popular
- 70% of market in U.S.



Red Charm



Maestro



Mighty Mo



Coral Sunset



Dr Alex Fleming



Edulis



Pillow Talk



Sarah Bernhardt



Mon Jules Elie



Mrs FDR



Nick Shaylor

*Brighten
your
Event Season
with
Peonies*



Bridal



Party



Banqueting

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Miss America



Mr Ed



Gardenia



Petticoat Flounce



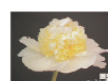
Baroness Schroeder



Bowl Of Cream



Bridal Shower



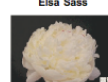
Charlie's White



Duchess de Nemours



Elsa Sass



Festiva

Omeo

- Dairy barns now packing and grading shed
- Omeo controls quality
- 16 nearby farms sell peonies under Omeo name

Shipping peonies worldwide

- Exporter, New Zealand Blooms
 - Finds markets worldwide
 - Identifies price buyers are willing to pay
 - Omeo has right of refusal
 - Exporter gets them to the buyer
(buyer pays shipping)



New Zealand Bloom® peonies

The gorgeous peony has become established as one of the most sort after crops grown in New Zealand. Most of the varieties that we export are the more recently bred American varieties, often characterized by their large buds and double blooms, and our growers continue to invest in these premium varieties.

- New Zealand Bloom is proud to be New Zealand's largest and leading exporter of premium peonies.
 - Availability : Late October – Mid December
- Grades :
 - AAA = 45mm Bud (1.7 inches)
 - AA = 40mm Bud (1.5 inches)
 - A = 35mm Bud (1.4 inches)
 - Generally 60cm+ (24 inches), however some shorter grades also available
- www.nzbloom.com

Cut peonies are:

Held dry in cold storage for up to 2 weeks

Packed for shipping, bundles of 10

Fumigated (mostly for thrips)

- One bug and the whole thing is rejected

Shipped air freight (mostly to New York)

Price for peonies in NY- up to \$35 per stem retail!

They sell roots!



Dig in April, ship in May