



Peony Cultivar Evaluations 2013

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Since 2001, peonies have been grown at the Georgeson Botanical Garden. Our collection includes 110 cultivars of herbaceous (*Lactiflora*), Intersectional and species peonies that might be useful in home gardens, landscapes and commercial cut flower production. Although we are not conducting formal replicated trials, we have made notes on their suitability in the garden or commercial farm. In addition, the Alaska Peony Growers Association (APGA) solicits comments from their members on the suitability and reliability of these cultivars in fields around Alaska (in brackets following APGA notation). We have combined our short notes with those of APGA members to provide a guide for growers and gardeners. This table includes all the cultivars grown at the GBG. Those names followed by a star (*) are not in the GBG collection but are grown elsewhere in the Alaska. This list is updated online at <http://georgesonbg.org/research/peonies/index.html>

Cultivar/species	First full bloom Fairbanks	Year planted at GBG, (source), classification, color and notes
<i>P. anomala</i>	May 25 - Jun 12	1990, (heirloom from Fairbanks garden), single; Blooms very early. Excellent hardy garden flower for early to mid June bloom season. One of the first garden flowers to bloom in Fairbanks. Outstanding foliage display all summer and ornamental seed pods in autumn.
Adolphe Rousseau		2005, (Wild) {APGA- some losses experienced in Fairbanks, good performer in other areas}
Alba Plena*		White, {APGA- unappealing bloom, very short stems, not good cut flower}
Ann Cousins	Jul 5-9	2002, (Wild), double white; poor growth in 2011, possible herbicide (glyphosate) damage when sprayed very early before buds were visible; damage still visible in 2013; some cabbage heads
Avalanche	Jul 6-10	2011, (Klehm's), double white, late bloomer {APGA- strong performer}
Baroness Schroeder*		{APGA-disappointing}
Bartzella	Jun 30 -Jul 5	2009, (Planteck), semi-double, intersectional yellow; outstanding garden flower; hardy at warmer sites in the Interior; needs snow cover; short stems for cutting;
Best Man	Jun 24-Jul 3	2006, (Klehm's), deep double red, poor growth in first years, recovered in year 2; few flowers; stout stems, ribbed; excellent flower quality; robust
Better Times	Jun 27-Jul 3	2001, 2009, (Wild), double; dead
Bowl of Beauty		2001, 2009 (Wild), pink Japanese; dead

Bowl of Cream		2001, 2009, (Klehm's), double {APGA-best priced white, susceptible to botrytis, slow to establish, may not be harvest able until 4+ years}}
Brand's Magnificent	Jul 4	2009, (Wild)
Bridal Icing	Jul 9-10	2006, (Klehm's), bomb, white guard petals and cream bomb petals; some gummy flower buds, has side bud; after cutting some dry before opening {APGA-great cut flower performer}
Bride's Dream*	Jun 28-Jul 5	Double, white with some pink in cool weather,{APGA- a favorite at the APGA conference}
Buckeye Belle*		Red, double {APGA- huge blooms, took many years to produce flowers}
Carol		2009, (Wild), double
Charlie's White	Jul 7-10	2006, (Caprice), semi double white bomb {APGA- blooms abundantly soon after planting}
Cheddar Gold	Jun 26- Jul 7	2006, (Klehm's), white guard petals, gold center, semi double
Claudia		2011, (OR Perennials),
Cora Louise	Jul 11-18	2008, (Planteck), single to semi-double, intersectional
Coral Charm	Jun 28 - 30	2006, (Klehm's), coral peach semi-double {APGA-excellent, very large blossoms & strong stems, do not disbud; very long bloom time in Homer-- into October; needs staking and protection from wind in some areas}}
Coral Supreme	Jun 24- Jul 3	2006, (Klehm's), salmon coral semi-double; wimpy plants, not many flowers, short stems
Corinne Wersen	Jun 30 -Jul 2	2011, (OR Perennials); looks nice in field, weak stems; some buds do not fully open- harvest stage will be important
Couronne d' Or	Jul 4	2005, (Wild), white, red flecks double: has side buds, crooked stems
David Harum	Jun 27 -Jul 7	2001, 2009, (Wild), deep rose bomb
Doris Cooper	Jun 30 -Jul 9	2001, 2009, (Wild), white double
Double Red	Jun 27-Jul 5	2011, (Klehm's), double; lots of gummy cabbage head buds in the second year; some buds do not fully open after cutting. Cutting stage will be important
Double White	Jul 3- 10	2011, (Klehm's), double
Dr. Alexander Fleming	Jun 27 - Jul 11	2001, 2009, (NW Bulb), pink double great productivity, nice long stems, similar to Sarah B; after cutting some buds did not fully open; partial opening then decline {APGA- scented, stores well}
Duchess de Nemours	Jun 22 -Jul 3	2001, 2009, (NW Bulb), white, blush pink double, not the clear white as advertised in the 'lower 48' in Fairbanks; some years flowers are more pink than blush. Excellent cut flower but opens fast. Need to harvest more than twice a day to catch every one. Stems shorter than most. {APGA-dependable, hold up well, fragrant, prolific bloomer, shorter stems than some other cultivars}
Duchess de Orleans	Jul 9	2001. 2009, (Wild), pink double
Early Scout	Jun 1 - 24	2001 (Wild) interesting brilliant red blooms on top of feathery foliage; great garden flower; not for cutting
Edulis Superba	Jun 28-Jul 3	2001, 2009, (Wild), rose bomb double {APGA-favorite peony of willow gardener, Les Brake, good, young performer, fragrant, easily damaged by late spring frost}

Elsa Sass*		(APGA- strong shorter stems, open bud style harvest peony. August, September, 2011 was super rainy . Buds held water and rot at the stem, need rain protection, never saw true bloom. Disappointing. A difficult cultivar. Pick softer than others. Opening problem, marks when squeezed}
Eskimo Pie	Jun 28 -Jul 2	2009, (Klehm'), double white with pink "stripes" on outer guard petals. Stems are too short for cut flowers, showy garden flower
Fairbanks	Jun 24 -Jul 8	2001, (Wild), white guard, yellow centers, single. Has side buds. Huge blooms. Excellent garden flower. Tall stems. Not for commercial cutting
Felix Crouse	Jun 25 -Jul 7	2001, 2009, (NW Bulb), rose double {APGA-many blossoms even when young, needs support, very popular with brides, ships well and holds well, very long stems. Showed bruising from wind in 2011, Good, reliable producer for several years}
Felix Supreme	Jun 27 -Jul 5	2001, 2009, (Wild), deep rose bomb (APGA-needs support, good producer}
Fernleaf Peony, <i>Paeonia tenuifolia</i>	Jun 15 - 30	2000, (Klehm's), red; very early bloom time in June; not a cut flower. Finely dissected foliage with small deep red buds. Excellent hardy garden flower
Festiva Maxima	Jun 27- 30	2001, 2009, 2011, (Wild), white, red flecks, double {APGA-old time reliable, Good performer, good production and does well in our soils, winters over well, strong stems in Fairbanks. Wish I had a field of Festiva! Incredible blooms, cream-ivory when young, then goes white. They seem to ship just fine. }
Festiva Powder Puff	Jul 2 - 7	2011, (Klehm's), double shiny green dark foliage, elegant blooms; a GBG favorite in 2013
Florence Bond	Jun 30	2009, (Wild), white double; dead
Fragrant Pink Improved	Jun 26- Jul 5	2009, (Klehm's), pink double, has side buds; short stems, buds slow to open; most did not come to full bloom
Francis Ortega	Jul 9	2005, (Wild), burgundy double, small flowers; lots of Botrytis in cut buds
G.F. Hemerick	Jun 30 - Jul 12	2006, (Wild), medium pink Japanese, cream bomb petals
Gardenia*		White, double {APGA- very large blooms, significant losses from winter injury in Fairbanks}
Gay Paree	Jun 30	2001, 2009, 2012, (OR Perennials), rose Japanese
George W. Payton	Jun 5 - Jul 2	2005, (Wild), pale pink double, has side buds
Glory Hallelujah	Jun 27 -Jul 4	2006, (Klehm's), blend of red, cherry red and pink double; excellent large blooms; rivals Sarah B in size and show (APGA- performs well, not the most prolific producer but gorgeous}
Going Bananas	Jun 25	2009, (Planteck), yellow single, intersectional; some Botrytis in cut buds; too short as cut flower but great in gardens;
Grover Cleveland*		{APGA- newly planted, growing well}
Heidi	Jul 1-5	2012, (OR Perennials)
Helen Hayes	Jul 1 - 10	2012, (Klehm's) as cut flower, some buds withered on the stem, did not open
Henry Bockstoce		2012, (OR Perennials), double { APGA-needs support, delicate petals are easily damaged by weather, insects, disease, and fungi. Can lose up to 50% of blossoms. Do not disbud. Huge red blooms}
Hermoine	Jun 30 -Jul 4	2006, (Adelman), pastel pink double; crooked stems, disbud

Irwin Altman	Jun 28 -Jul 3	2006, (Caprice), rose double; has side buds, small flowers
Jaycee		2001, 2009, (Wild), rose double; dead
Joker	Jul 5-7	2012, (OR Perennials), double
Julia Rose	Jun 26	2009, (Planteck), deep pink over yellow ground single to semi-double, intersectional; earliest of the Intersectionals in Fairbanks; gorgeous two-toned blooms; great garden plant with snow cover
Kansas	Jun 27 -Jul 6	2001, 2009, (Wild) deep rose double; died out at GBG site {APGA- works well at other Fairbanks sites, nice color, short storage life; petals appear burned after 2 weeks in cold storage; not easy to harvest}
Karl Rosenfield	Jun 27	2001, 2009, (Wild), red double; died out at GBG (APGA-lots of blooms, flower quality not the best}
Katheryn Fonteyn	Jun 23 -Jul 1	2002, (Wild), pale pink double; stubby flowers; short stems; best for gardens, not commercial cutting
La Lorraine	Jun 29 -Jul 8	2006, (Klehm's) creamy white tinted with pink, double; has side buds; looks good at the GBG; nice tall stems, productive {APGA- growing well, needs deadheading}
Lady Alexandra Duff	Jun 29 -Jul 9	2006, (Wild), semi-double pink; lots of cabbage buds
Lady Kate	Jun 16 -Jul 6	2001, (Wild), pink double; Botrytis in cut stems
Largo	Jun 16 -Jul 7	2001, (Adelman), dark rose guard, yellow centers, single Japanese; has side buds; as cut stem, some did not open
Leslie Peck	Jun 27 -Jul 7	2012, (OR Perennials), Japanese
Lilian Wild	Jul 2- Jul 9	2005, (Wild), white double
Lottie Dawson Rea	Jun 24- Jul 5	2003, (Wild), pale pink double
Louis van Houtte	Jul 1- 6	2001, 2009, (Wild), rose double; dead
Love's Touch	Jul 2- 3	Lots of Botrytis in cut buds
Lowell Thomas	Jun 27-28	2012, (OR Perennials), semi-double to double red; nice long stems;
Magical Mystery Tour	Jun 29	2009, (Planteck), Intersectional
Marie Lemoine*		(APGA- voted first place in peony competition APGA 2011}
Marietta Sisson	Jun 22 -Jul 1	2006, (Klehm's), medium pink double, 12: crooked stems, has side buds; cabbage buds; some cut buds do not fully open
Mary Brand	Jul 1-4	2005, (Wild), red double, has side buds, gummy buds; lots of deformed, lopsided buds
Mary Jo Legare	Jun 27	2012, (OR Perennials), bomb
Mighty Mo	Jul 5	2001, 2009, (Wild), deep rose double; some cut buds never opened
Minuet	Jul 1-8	2005, (Wild), pale pink double
Miss America*		Single, white, clusters of yellow stamens (APGA- very large blooms, amazing, vigorous, long flowering}
Madame de Verneville	Jun 25- Jul 2	2001, 2009, (Adelman), white, red flecks, double
Madame Emile Debantene	Jun 25 -Jul 2	2007, (Caprice), pink double, has side buds; some cut buds do not open in the vase
Monsieur Jules Elie	Jun 26 -Jul 2	2009, (Wild), rose bomb (APGA-large blossoms, long stems, needs wind protection. Huge blossoms with long stems that people ask for, but keeping them upright and straight is a challenge}
Mons. Martin Cahazac	Jun 22 -Jul 8	2006, (Wild), red double, has side buds; popular color in the garden

Moon of Nippon	Jun 28 -Jul 9	2007, (Caprice), white, Japanese
Mother's Choice*		(APGA- supposed to be white double but is a gorgeous antique soft pink}
Mrs. Franklin D Roosevelt		2009, (Adelman), pale pink double; dead
Nick Shaylor	Jun 25 -Jul 2	2001, 2009, (Wild), double pale pink; many crooked stems, has side buds
Nippon Beauty	Jul 25-Jul 2	2005, (Adelman), burgundy, Japanese
Nora Volz*		White, double {APGA-supposed to be white, but like so many whites in the rainy summer of 2011, were fringed with light pink, bud tops were crinkled on the one year plants}
Orlando Roberts	Jun 25 -Jul 9	2006, (Klehm's), black-red semi double; second favorite "black" peony after Mons. Martin Cahazac. Some people don't like the yellow stamens in the center of the dark petals
Paul M. Wild	Jun 28 -Jul 8	2005, (Wild), cherry red double
Paula Fay	Jul 3 - 10	2006, (Wild), dark rose pink semi-double {APGA-many gorgeous fluorescent pink blossoms with short stems first year. It doesn't ship well. Lovely and packed with buds, but I still think there is a market for that big satin pink flower}
Pink Hawaiian Coral	Jun 26 -Jul 5	2006, (Adelman), coral with yellow stamens, semi-double. Dramatic color change as flowers open. Nice color but plants are weak and not very floriferous. Okay for home gardens but not for commercial cutting
Pink Parfait		2009, (Adelman), pink double; dead
President Roosevelt	Jun 16 -Jul 8	2002, (Wild), medium red, double. 3-yr plants in Homer are medium red that get burgundy/purple stained petals as they age. They aren't heavy yielders but are reliable and have a nice bud. Lots of Botrytis in cut buds
President Taft	Jul 1-2	2012, (Klehm's), double pink; many deformed flowers, lopsided opening (APGA- young, strong performer}
Princess Bride		2009, (Wild), pink bomb
Princess Juliana	Jul 3 - 9	2009, (Peony Nursery Panevezys, Lithuania), pink double
Raspberry Sundae		2001, 2009, (Wild), bomb died out at GBG {APGA-huge, mostly pink, double blossoms on mature plants were very large and beautiful. They respond well to bone meal}
Red Charm	Jul 6	2001, 2009, (Wild), deep red, bomb. Short stems, gorgeous bloom color; great garden plant and cut flower even with short stems {APGA-very large blossoms, tall strong stems need support, expensive roots. Do not disbud. Good, reliable performer. One of the "favorites" at August, 2011 APGA Conference}.
Ruth Cobbs	Jun 29 -Jul 9	2005, (Wild), medium pink double; has side buds
Sadie Fisher's Peony	Jul 4 - 9	2010, (Heirloom from Illinois garden), white double, large pure white blooms, very productive; this is not a cultivar but an heirloom named after Sadie Fisher simply because it came from her yard, true cultivar unknown
Sarah Bernhardt	Jun 18 - Jul 10	2001, 2009, (Wild), pink double. Very productive, large blooms, vigorous plants, one of the top recommended pinks for cut flower production {APGA-old time favorite, dependable, some losses when snow cover is not sufficient, stores well, good season extender, very susceptible to fungal attack on Kenai P.; killed completely on some Kenai Peninsula sites over winter in 2012}

Serebrenyi Velvet	Jul 2	2009, (Wild), medium pink double; small flower size
Shawnee Chief		2009, (Wild), deep rose double; died out at GBG. {APGA-grew well, late}
Shirley Temple	Jun 27 -Jul 8	2005, (Wild), white double, small blooms, many misshapen stems. Cannot recommend as cut flower; lots of deformed flowers; cabbage buds, gummy cabbage buds {APGA-slow starters taking several years before they produced, but are not strong producers in Fairbanks. Disappointing. Does not grow well}
Singing in the Rain	Jun 29	2009, (Planteck), Intersectional two-toned light pink to orange; small blooms but plenty of them; hardy in the Interior on warm sites and with snow cover; as cut flower does not open well; lots of Botrytis
Sitka	Jun 24- Jul 9	200, (Wild), single white; large blooms on tall, somewhat floppy stems; great display for gardens; not a cut flower
Smith Family Yellow	Jul 9	2009, (Planteck), yellow single Intersectional; bright creamy yellow blooms with orange centers; very ornamental; hardy in the Interior on warm sites with snow; not recommended for cutting
Solange	Jun 25 -Jul 9	2005, (Wild), white double; disbud, susceptible to Botrytis, lots of cabbage buds and gummy cabbage buds; poor garden and cut flower
Sorbet		2002 pink died out at GBG (layer cake blossoms, intriguing, attention-getting blooms, prolific, stems need support}
Therese	Jun 30	2001, 2009, (Wild), pale pink double; lots of cabbage buds; many cut buds did not open; lots of Botrytis in cut buds
Victorian Blush	Jul 2	2009, 2011, (Klehm's), white blushed with pink, short stems, short vase life
Victorie a la Marne*		{APGA-marginal performer, few buds even after 3 years in Fairbanks}
Vivid Rose	Jul 2- 9	2001, 2009, (Klehm's), rose double; died at GBG
Westerner		2001, 2009, (Wild), pink Japanese; died at GBG
White Sands	Jun 26 -Jul 9	2007, (Adelman), white Japanese
Yankee Doodle Dandy	Jun 28 -Jul 4	2009, (Planteck), pink intersectional; gorgeous rosy pink semi double with dark rose centers; blooms well; hardy in Interior gardens on warm sites with snow cover



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