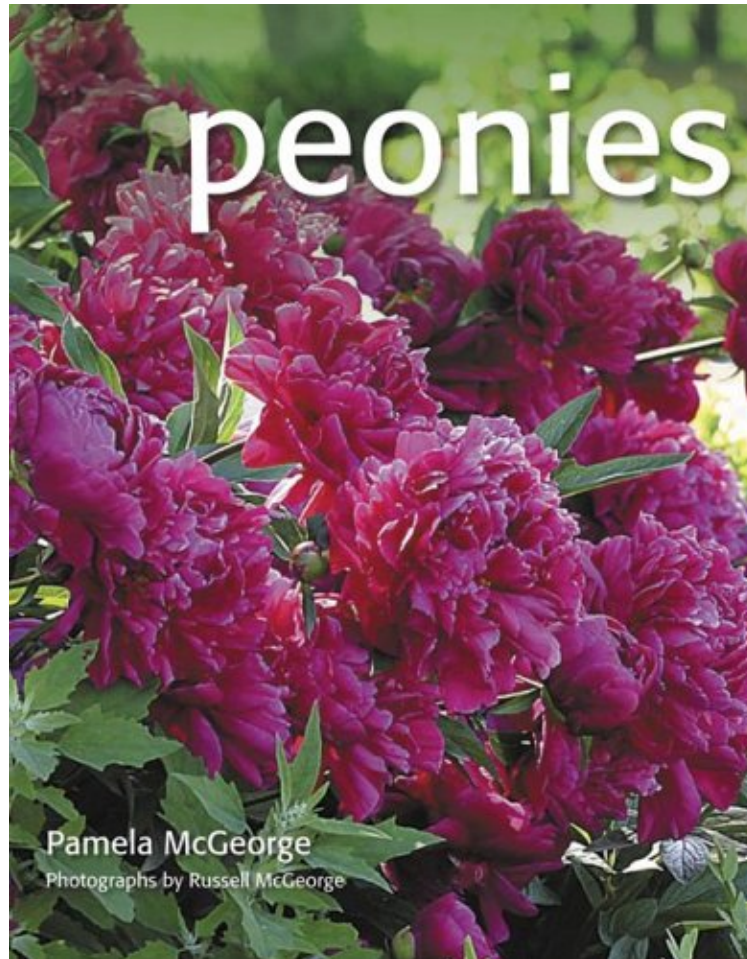


(Download free pdf) Peonies (Firefly Gardener's Guide)

Peonies (Firefly Gardener's Guide)

Pamela McGeorge

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Pamela McGeorge : Peonies (Firefly Gardener's Guide) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Peonies (Firefly Gardener's Guide):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good book for a novice Gardner.By giftgiverVery helpful book for a beginning grower. Lots of lovely pictures and easy to understand prose.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Peonies and favorite plantsBy santa's helperI love to garden and love to read, you can never know enough about gardening and your favorite plants, You need to learn how totake care of the plants you like and keep the investment of plants alive.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy lindaexcellent

A richly illustrated guide to growing a most satisfying perennial, the peony. The dazzling peony with its generous blooms is revered and treasured in North America as it has been for centuries in its country of origin, China. Peonies is a comprehensive guide to selecting and growing the best species and hybrids for every region and garden condition. In

an easy-to-use format, this informative and practical reference book has dozens of color photographs and features chapters on: Genus Paeonia and the modern hybrids Ornamental and herbaceous peonies Tree peonies, the "king of flowers" Cultivation and propagation techniques Fertilizers, preferred soil composition, watering and over-wintering Remedies for pests, diseases and disorders Landscaping recommendations with peonies Displaying peonies indoors The origin and history of peonies. There is also a valuable appendix of selected varieties and a listing of associations and suppliers.

Delicious tidbits abound in this book, which is packed with historical and scientific detail, but is never pedantic or boring.... If you're into peonies, this is the book for you. (Mary Jane Smetanka Star Tribune (Minneapolis) 2007-05-30)Not only [a] useful reference guide but also looks gorgeous on a coffee table book. (Margot Austin Style at Home)Easy-to-use format and practical advice. (Rachael Green American Reference Books Annual)144 pages of pure delight. You will not put this one down. (Ian Munt The Sudbury Star 2007-07-10)A comprehensive overview of the peony. (Brenda Ruzycski Edmonton Sun 2007-07-15)Old-fashioned, romantic, and winter-hardy, peonies get the full treatment here with enticing photos and accessible cultural advice. No northeast garden should be without a selection of these beauties. (Ebony A. Francis Library Journal)For gardeners who want to learn how to choose the best peony varieties and how to care for them. (Michigan Gardener)An informative and interesting guide on planting, growing and caring for peonies... delves into the history and the botany. (Jessica Damiano Melville Newsday 2006-09-07)An excellent overview... geared to a North American audience, paying full mind to appropriate planting zones... The text will remind gardeners what exceptionally long-live and trouble-free plants these are, how broad and subtly diverse their color range is... enticing photographs... a lovely offering for general readers in public libraries. (Margaret Heilbrun Library Journal 2006-10-01)A comprehensive overview... photographs provide a guide for gardeners who want to find out how to choose the best varieties and to care for them. (Suzanne Hively Cleveland Plain Dealer 2006-08-21)A fairly good introduction for the uninitiated, this book clears up questions about peony species, care, propagation and problems. (Mary Fran McQuade Beach Metro Community News 2006-11-28)Another worthy addition to any gardener's library ... Lavishly illustrated and comprehensive. (Steve Whysall Vancouver Sun 2006-12-08)Peonies are surely among the most glorious of flowers... The book is superbly illustrated. (Ken Smith London Free Press 2006-11-18)If you're a peony lover like me, you'll enjoy Peonies by Pamela McGeorge. It's beautiful, informative and practical with lots of color photos, history, cultivation and propagation techniques, details for care and feeding including over-wintering and remedies for pests and diseases. (Sara Busse Charleston Gazette 2009-04-05)About the Author Pamela McGeorge is the author of three previous titles for Firefly Books, for which Russell McGeorge was the photographer: Carnations and Pinks, Lilies and Irises. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Introduction Extravagant language seems to be the hallmark of peony lovers. Since we first started to look at plants for their beauty, and not just for their healing properties, peonies have basked in our admiration. Words echo down the centuries, recording the impressions that peonies have made on those who have grown and loved them. "We cherish them for the beauty and delight of their goodly flowers," wrote Englishman John Parkinson, herbalist to the king and apothecary of the time, in 1629. "The most superb and commanding flower which the garden holds," wrote Alice Harding, doyenne of American peony growers, in 1917. "The fattest and most scrumptious of all flowers, a rare fusion of fluff and majesty," wrote garden writer extraordinaire, Henry Mitchell, in the later years of the 20th century. No peony grower today would argue with these descriptions, and such is the magic of these flowers that they have seduced gardeners for more than 20 centuries-long before the massive and spectacular modern hybrids we grow today had appeared on the scene. Peonies are divided into two main groups: herbaceous varieties, which die down in the fall; and tree peonies, which are deciduous but whose woody structure remains during winter -- like the skeleton of any deciduous tree. Both bear extravagantly sumptuous flowers. In China, the peony has been consistently treasured down through the ages. In the West its fortunes have fluctuated. First praised for its beauty in 1629, it gradually fell victim to its success. The wealthy classes came to consider a plant that lasted the lifetime of a human being, and available to all, as vulgar and common. They wanted rare plants, things that were difficult to grow, and the peony for a time was known as a "poor man's flower." However, during the 19th century, as the number of named cultivars with spectacular flowers increased, the popularity of peonies rose. They became symbolic of the stylish Edwardian times before their decline set in once again. As the 20th century unrolled, the impetus for developing new peonies moved from Europe to the United States. American breeders began producing a series of handsome cultivars, both herbaceous and tree varieties, and more growers entered the market. In the last years of the 20th century, as China increasingly opened its doors to the West, new species were discovered, and Chinese varieties have been exported, adding to the pool of available plants. That trend continues. Today, herbaceous peonies increasingly are taking a large share of the cutflower market, and named plants are sought after across international borders. Westerners go to China in the peony season to view vast plantings of this flower that has featured for so long in Chinese art and history. In the 21st century the peony in the Western world has come close to attaining the status and desirability it has always held in Chinese society. This book is for gardeners who have already been seduced by peonies and want to find out how to choose the best varieties and care for them in their own gardens. It looks at the origins of peonies and highlights the efforts of early hybridizers.

Some of the plants they produced are still popular today, more than 150 years after their first appearance on the market. The book also discusses intersectional hybrids, a cross between tree peonies and herbaceous varieties, and introduces readers to the species, of which few gardeners are aware. Long neglected in favor of their flamboyant descendants, the species produce simpler, sometimes more elegant flowers that appeal to modern gardeners. Both plants and seeds are more available now than ever before, especially in the United States. A list of suppliers is provided on pages 139-142. Many publish their selections or catalogs on the Internet. As with most popular flowers, new peony cultivars are constantly appearing, and suppliers can provide the most up-to-date information on which cultivars or species are available in any given season.