FLOWERS · A SUNNY, PERMANENT GARDEN BED

Let's grow peony.

Paeonia lactiflora 'Krinkled White'

This plan is for **Krinkled White herbaceous peony (not tree peony)**

White spring flowers worth leaving a place for.

4 ft between plants **1 root division**

Before you start

Plant a 3–5-eye bare-root division in early fall, with eyes 1–2 inches below settled soil; use a permanent garden bed with winter chill.

By jennyzhuang

Sources checked September 25, 2026 View sources

LIGHT

Loves the sun

Choose at least 6 hours of direct sun for a good flower display.

WATER

Moist, never boggy

Give new roots a deep drink when the soil dries; avoid soggy crowns.

FEEDING

No feed without a need

Start in good garden soil. Excess nitrogen favors leaves.

BEFORE YOU START

Your little kit.

- ✓ 1 healthy 'Krinkled White' peony division with 3–5 eyes
- ✓ A spade, ruler, and watering can
- ✓ An optional support hoop for a windy site

THE SOIL

Well-drained, reasonably fertile garden soil. Keep the crown clear of deep mulch.

Start with what's on this list. Add plant food only when the feeding section says it's needed.

YOUR SIMPLE GROWING PLAN

A garden bed. Here's the plan.

A sunny, permanent garden bed. Start with **bare-root division**.

THE SPACE

4 ft between plants

Allow at least 2 ft from the plant center to the bed edge. Choose a place it can stay.

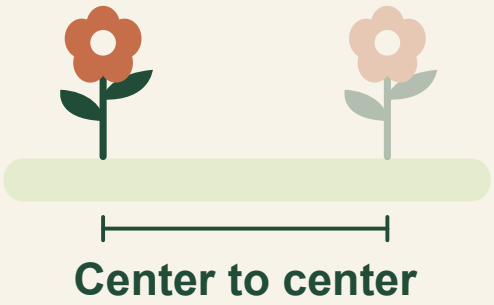
HOW MANY

1 root division

Buy a firm, healthy 'Krinkled White' division with 3–5 eyes. This plan is for an herbaceous peony, not a woody tree peony.

THE SPACE

4 ft between plants



START WITH

1 root division

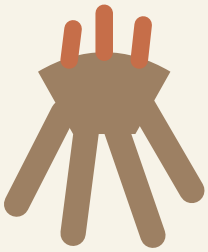


Illustration · not to scale

4 ft between plants · 1 root division Allow at least 2 ft from the plant center to the bed edge. Choose a place it can stay. Buy a firm, healthy 'Krinkled White' division with 3–5 eyes. This plan is for an herbaceous peony, not a woody tree peony. Original illustration; not to scale.

01

Choose a lasting spot

Leave 4 ft between centers. Peonies dislike being moved repeatedly and need winter chill.

02

Measure from the eyes

Place the roots with the eyes facing up. After backfilling and settling, the eyes should have only 1–2 inches of soil above them. Measure from the buds, not the bottom of the roots. Deeper planting can prevent flowering.

03

Backfill gently and water

Settle the garden soil around the roots and water. Recheck the eyes' depth after the soil settles.

04

Keep the crown clear

Do not pile mulch over the eyes. Mark the spot so you can protect the emerging shoots next spring.

Other ways to start

Start with a potted peony in spring

Buy the same cultivar as a nursery plant. Check where its eyes/crown sit rather than blindly burying the entire nursery surface deeper. Keep the eyes shallow, with drainage and the same eventual spacing.

Divide an established peony

Divide in early fall when needed, keeping 3–5 healthy eyes and good roots in each piece. Replant promptly at the same shallow eye depth. Seeds do not reliably reproduce this named cultivar and take much longer; a healthy established clump does not need routine division.

YOUR EVERYDAY ROUTINE

Water & fertilizer at a glance.

WATER WHEN

Water deeply when root-zone soil is drying, moistening about 12 inches down. Check weekly during the first season, sooner in heat; wait after sufficient rain.

FERTILIZER

No added fertilizer for this starting plan

AMOUNT

None

WHAT THAT AMOUNT COVERS

No fertilizer dose to calculate.

HOW OFTEN TO FEED

No routine feeding.

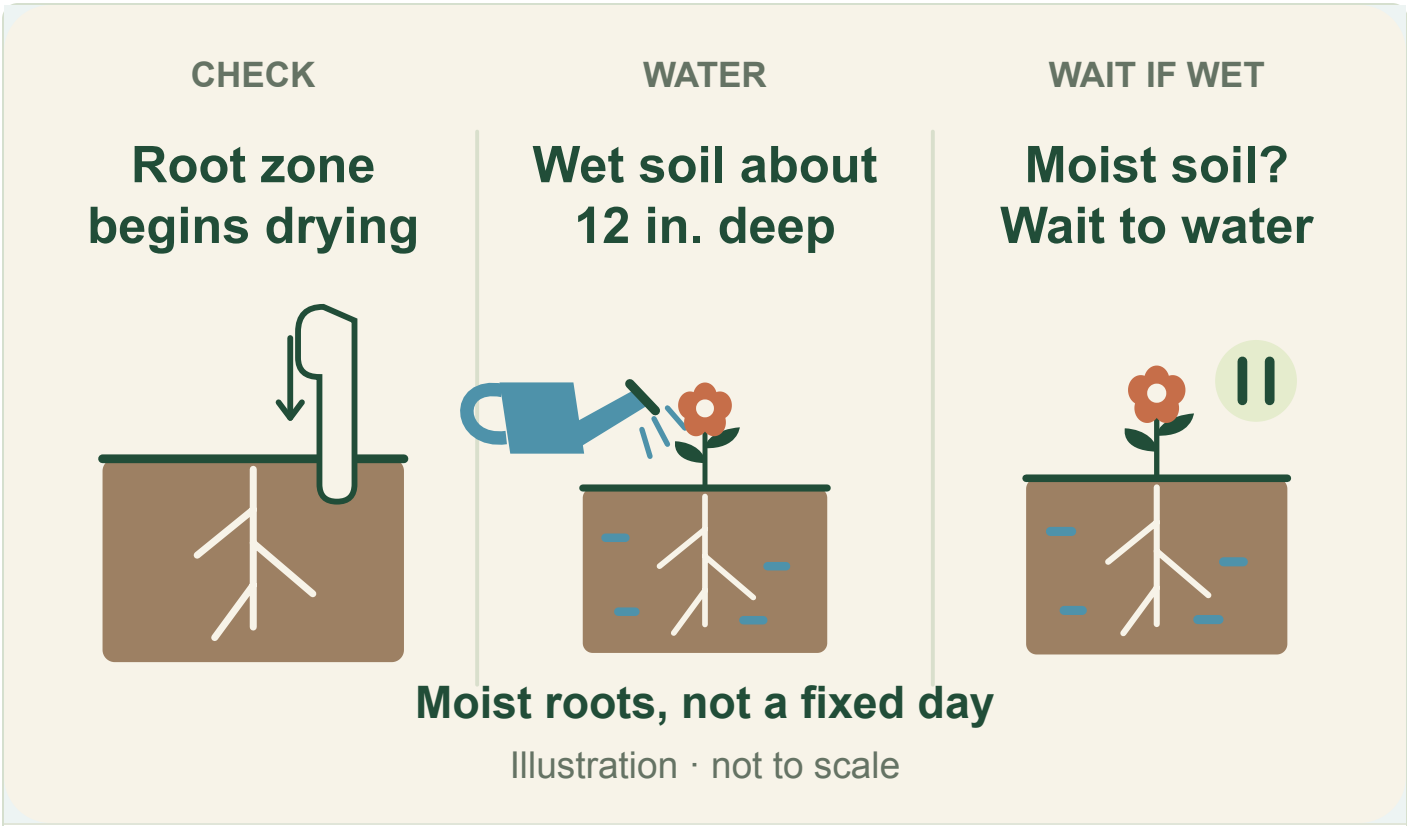
WHEN TO START OR PAUSE

Start without extra feed in fertile ground. Check eye depth, light, and drainage, then use a soil test if growth is weak. Avoid late-summer or fall fertilizer.

01 / EVERYDAY CARE

When to water.

Check weekly during the first growing season, and sooner in hot dry weather. If the root-zone soil is drying, water slowly and deeply, aiming to moisten soil about 12 inches down. Wait when rain has already kept it moist. The goal is deep moisture without a waterlogged crown, not a fixed number of watering days. Established peonies usually need supplemental water only in prolonged drought, especially while buds develop.



Check before watering. Water deeply when root-zone soil is drying, moistening about 12 inches down. Check weekly during the first season, sooner in heat; wait after sufficient rain. Original illustration; not to scale.

> **The easy rule**
>
> Check first. Water only when the plant needs it.

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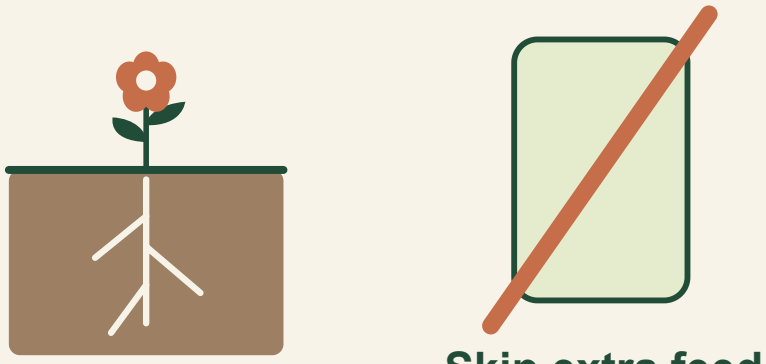
02 / PLANT FOOD

Exactly what to feed it.

Start without added fertilizer in reasonably fertile soil. Poor flowering can come from deep planting, shade, drought, or a young division. Check those before feeding; a soil test can show whether a nutrient is actually missing.

THIS STARTING PLAN

No added fertilizer



Follow the conditions in this plan

Illustration · not to scale

None No fertilizer dose to calculate. No routine feeding. Start without extra feed in fertile ground. Check eye depth, light, and drainage, then use a soil test if growth is weak. Avoid late-summer or fall fertilizer. Original illustration; not to scale.

THE SIMPLE FEEDING PLAN

Start without extra fertilizer.

No fertilizer purchase or routine dose is needed for this starting plan. If a soil test recommends nutrients, use its rate and keep fertilizer away from the crown. Do not add bone meal, an acidifier, or extra nitrogen merely to chase flowers; do not fertilize in late summer or fall.

03 / WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

First blooms and an established display

'Krinkled White' has single white flowers and golden centers, reaching about 32 inches tall and roughly 2–3 ft wide. Expect a spring or early-summer flowering period, rather than all-season bloom. A new division may give few flowers at first; a fuller display can take three or four growing seasons.

Fall planting and winter chill

Plant bare roots in early fall while soil is workable. Herbaceous peonies generally suit USDA zones 3–8, with cultivar and local climate differences. A mild winter without enough chill can limit flowering.

For regional planting windows, find your local Cooperative Extension office ↗.

Something looking off?

It has leaves but no flowers. What went wrong?

A young plant may simply need time. Also check eyes buried too deeply, too much shade, or excessive nitrogen. More fertilizer is not the default fix.

Do the ants help flowers open?

Peony buds can attract ants, but flowers do not need ants to open. Their presence alone is not a reason to spray.

Buds turned dark and moldy.

Cool wet conditions can favor botrytis. Remove affected material, improve airflow, and avoid wetting foliage. Local Extension can help distinguish disease from frost or other bud damage.

Can I use this plan for a tree peony?

No. 'Krinkled White' is herbaceous: its stems die back in fall. Tree peonies retain woody stems and have different planting and pruning requirements. Check the nursery tag before applying the shallow planting or fall cutback steps.

Is it a good plant for a pet that chews leaves?

Choose an inaccessible spot instead. ASPCA lists peony as toxic to pets, and RHS flags 'Krinkled White' as potentially harmful to cats and dogs. Keep dug roots and cut foliage out of reach.

Supporting flowers and caring after bloom

Add a hoop before shoots grow tall

The single flowers of 'Krinkled White' are less top-heavy than many double peonies. A hoop can still help in an exposed site; place it early so shoots grow through.

Remove spent heads and clear dead stems

Remove spent flower heads but leave healthy foliage to feed the roots. After a hard freeze, cut back dead stems and remove the debris. Do not leave diseased foliage around the crown.

Help with your next step.

Compare your first flower project

Check whether a garden-bed plant or a smaller container project fits your space.

Browse flower growing plans

Compare the named varieties and starting spaces before choosing another plant.

BEHIND THIS GUIDE

Where the advice comes from.

Plant care is based on the sources below. Planting layouts and beginner routines combine that guidance into one practical plan; they are editorial choices, not results from a Plant Care Steps growing trial.

- RHS: 'Krinkled White' identity and growth ↗
  https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/62802/paeonia-lactiflora-krinkled-white/details
- American Peony Society: cultivar registry ↗
  https://americanpeonysociety.org/cultivars/peony-registry/krinkled-white/
- Iowa State: planting, flowering, and peony care ↗
  https://yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu/how-to/growing-peonies-iowa
- Illinois Extension: dividing peonies ↗
  https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/timeline-through-landscape-design-archives/2015-10-07-dividing-peonies
- UConn: peony care and problems ↗
  https://homegarden.cahnr.uconn.edu/factsheets/peonies/
- Maryland Extension: soil-test-based peony feeding ↗
  https://ask.extension.org/kb/faq.php?id=886770
- Maryland Extension: soil-test-led care of garden perennials ↗
  https://www.extension.umd.edu/resource/care-annuals-and-perennials
- ASPCA: peony and pets ↗
  https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/aspca-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants/peony

Something needs updating? Suggest a correction

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Compiled with AI assistance. These first-edition guides have not yet had an independent horticultural review. Read our editorial approach.