



Itoh and Intersectional Peony Groups

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The Itoh Group

This is a special hybrid cross involving a lactiflora as one parent and a tree peony as the second parent. There is a wide range of colors and flower form varies from single to semi-double. In this group we see the brightest yellow colored peonies available like, Bartzella, Garden Treasure, Sequestered Sunshine and several others.

Some characteristics of this group are strong hybrid vigor often maintaining green foliage very late into the fall. There have been no reported winter hardiness issues in the Itoh Group like some of the hybrid group cultivars. This group dies down to the ground each winter and re-sprout from growing points below the soil surface so winter protection is not an issue.

Nearly all cultivars of this group have one main bud and 3 side buds that open in succession providing a bloom season of 3-4 weeks on a single plant. The later blooming side buds are often larger and fuller in flower form than the first bud to open. This long bloom season is the longest in the peony world and a wonderful and welcome quality for gardeners. The color range and flower patterns in this group are very wide with contrasting flares, peachy overlays of pink colors and bright scarlet reds it has much to recommend this group to gardeners. So far there have been no fertile Itoh peonies so that the cross must be remade and has been using several different parents to provide the wide range of colors and flower forms in this group. Some examples include, Old Rose Dandy, Hillary, Chief Blackhawk, Cora Louise and Anderson's Kaleidoscope.



Itoh peony 'Bartzella'

The Intersectional Group

The Intersectional Group involves a species other than *Paeonia lactiflora* as the other parent crossed with a tree peony. There are few representatives of this group one of which is registered as Red Compass Rose the result of crossing Night Watch (a hybrid peony) with *Paeonia delavayi* (a woody shrub species). Because it is not in commerce and there are not many representatives in this group, we are able to make further comments.