



American Peony Society Cultivar Registration Form (EXPLAINED)

Revised January, 2007.

PROPOSED NAME: Proposed name for new cultivar Date: Month/Day/Year

A cultivar is defined by the ICNCP as “an assemblage of plants that has been selected for a particular attribute or combination of attributes and that is clearly distinct, uniform, and stable in these characteristics and that when propagated by appropriate means retains those characteristics.” This means that a seedling, no matter how good or desirable, is NOT a cultivar until it has been propagated and shown to be stable in those desirable qualities. If it does not qualify as a cultivar, it should not be formally named or registered.

Name derivation What is the origin or meaning of the name.

In some cases this will be obvious while in other cases explanation may be needed. If named for a person who is living or recently deceased, permission must be obtained from that person (or heirs) before the name can be accepted.

ORIGINATOR: The person who raised the peony. Name / Address \longrightarrow

Name
Street
City, State, Zip Code
or City, Province-Region,
Postal Code, Country

REGISTRANT (if different from originator): The person registering the peony. Name / Address \longrightarrow

SEEDLING NUMBER or GARDEN NAME: Number, code, or garden name by which seedling was known before registration.

This is particularly important for peonies which were distributed or exhibited prior to formal name establishment or registration.

FIRST YEAR BLOOMED: YEAR

This is important to gauge the maturity of the plant with respect to flowering and flower form stability.

FIRST YEAR PROPAGATED: YEAR

First year Propagated-divided, grafted, etc... Is it a cultivar? Leaving this entry blank suggests that the peony was never propagated, and therefore it should not be named. Too many things can happen resulting in the loss of a plant, and therefore its only assurance of survival is when there are several plants propagated from the original seedling with the intent to distribute it. Only then can it properly be called a cultivar and named.

Has cultivar been patented, trade marked or otherwise commercially protected? Yes No check one
If Yes, explain organization giving patent or trademark, patent number, etc.

Has cultivar been exhibited and/or received awards? Yes No check one
If Yes, explain. give number or name under which it was shown and who (Organization) gave the award

PARENTAGE: Pod Parent Plant name or number which produced the seed.

Pollen Parent Pollen parent name or number (source)

Unknown In some instances the parentage from both sides will be unknown. Check if applicable.

TYPE: (Cultivar Group):

Lactiflora check if applicable

These are the common garden peonies descended from the Chinese herbaceous peonies. They are diploid in chromosome number and there are more of them than any other group. Crosses between members of this group are not considered hybrids. Multiple blooms per stem almost always occur in this group. As a group, they are latest to bloom.

Herbaceous Hybrid check if applicable

These are herbaceous peonies which have more than one species in their parentage. Some have pedigrees involving four or more species in their makeup. Typically one bloom per stem, but sometimes more. Colors tend to be purer and more vibrant than in the lactifloras.

Suffruticosa Tree Peony check if applicable

Includes the traditional Chinese and Japanese tree peonies. There are also suffruticosa originations from all other parts of the world where peonies are grown. Good vibrant yellows are rare in this group, the yellow in tree peonies commonly coming from the species Lutea and seen in the Lutea Hybrids.

Lutea Hybrid Tree Peony check if applicable

These are tree peony hybrids between the Delavayi group and the Suffruticosa group. Almost all yellow tree peonies (the species excepted) belong to this group, but there are other colors as well.

Itoh Group (Intersectional) check if applicable

Itoh Group peonies are hybrids having Lactiflora Group peonies as seed parent and Lutea Hybrid Group peonies as pollen parent. The term "Intersectional" applies to crosses between two different sections of the genus and is thus a general descriptive term. Itoh applies to a specific cross as noted above. Features of most of these to date are tree peony-like foliage and flowers, with herbaceous plant habit.

Other check if applicable

For registration purposes, here would be listed any other peony that does not fit any of the above descriptions. Examples may be selections from wild populations which show characteristics desired for introduction into general cultivation. Also hybrids between species within the Delavayi group could be listed here.

SEASON OF BLOOM: Very Early Early Early/Mid Midseason Mid/Late Late Very Late

Bloom Season Guide Table		
Complete list may be found on the Internet at http://bloomdate.paeonia.com/		
SEASON MIDPOINT	BLOOM SEASON	SEASON BOUNDARY
		← <i>P. tenuifolia</i> (single)
Nosegay →	Very Early	
		← Windchimes
Laddie →	Early	
		← Picotee
Dawn Glow →	Early-Mid	
		← Archangel
RED CHARM →	Midseason	
		← Many Happy Returns
Kay Tischler →	Mid-Late	
		← Mrs. Livingston Farrand
Isani Gidui →	Late	
		← A. B. Franklin
Myrtle Gentry →	Very Late	
		← Vivid Rose

In the representation above, the column on the right lists cultivars that mark the approximate boundaries of bloom interval. Those on the left mark the mid-point of bloom interval. It is not invariably precise, but it will serve as a useful guide, as explained in the following paragraphs.

Bloom data has been collected for almost 1000 different peony cultivars, including species and a few tree peonies, and for most, in multiple years (see <http://bloomdate.paeonia.com/>). When the data is analyzed, it shows that there can be more than seven weeks of peony bloom of one sort or another. Weather plays a large part in expanding the season in cooler years, or compressing it during warm years.

There are almost as many days in which peonies can be expected to bloom before Red Charm, as there are ones in which they bloom after Red Charm, and so Red Charm makes a good starting point. With Red Charm as the mid-point, it suggests an odd number of periods, and this works out very well too with naming these bloom periods. We can make seven bloom periods, each of 6 to 8 days duration depending on the weather in any particular year.

This is not a precise system, there being so many variables from one garden to the next, as well as differences in the micro-climates within those gardens, but in general it does make a much better system for describing when a particular peony can be expected to bloom than anything we've had before. Access to the table containing all data will still be useful for the gardener wishing to expand their peony bloom season, but the seven letter designations will give a broad idea of when something might be expected to bloom.

This is not a new idea, it's just that it took 40 years since William Krekler proposed such a scheme in 1960 before there were people willing to do some detailed data collection and analysis. Krekler had only 5 divisions (Very Early, Early, Mid, Late, Very Late) and maybe these are a better option than seven. His suggestion was that peony bloom designations should begin to have some basis in reality, and reflect the true bloom season of ALL peonies, not just the lactifloras.

FLOWER

Flowers change as they age. For descriptive purposes it is assumed that observations will be made on a fresh bloom. In certain types, colors may progress through a series of changes which add to garden effect, or contribute to diagnostic tools, and these should be mentioned.

FLOWER FORM:

Single – check if applicable. Typically resembles the wild form with 5 petals, pollen bearing stamens, and functional carpels. Singles in cultivation may have up to 15 petals but still be classed as singles if the petals are spread in a saucer shape rather than cup shaped, ruffled, or otherwise give the impression of bulk.

Japanese – check if applicable. Diagnostic of Japanese flower form are staminodes. These are abortive or transformed stamens in which that origin is still recognizable. Edges of the staminodes are thickened and often contain viable pollen, but it is encased in tissue and not otherwise available. The original peonies of this form were imported from Japan where the lack of pollen drop was a desirable feature.

Anemone – check if applicable. Stamen transformation in the anemone form has progressed to the point where all visible evidence of stamen origin, except for yellow color, has disappeared. These structures are termed petalodes and resemble petals. Some of these petalodes are very narrow, and yellow, giving the effect of a Japanese form peony. Other petalodes are wider and as size increases, the flowers begin to approach the bomb flower form.

Semi-Double – check if applicable. Quite a variety of forms are included in this designation. They all have in common prominent stamens, and a bulking of the petalage, either through partial transformation of stamens into petalodes, increased number of guard petals, or guard petal structure which adds visual bulk to the flower.

Bomb – check if applicable. Petalodes have progressed in size to almost the same size as the guard petals, and are almost always the same color as the guards. Overall effect is a ball sitting on a plate, the plate being formed of the larger guard petals at the base of the flower, and the shorter central petals forming the ball. Red Charm and Mons. Jules Elie are examples.

Full Double – check if applicable. In the ultimate expression of this form, all stamens and carpels are transformed into petals. Scattered stamens are allowed.

Other (explain) – check if applicable. If it doesn't seem to fit any of the above classifications, describe flower form here. Not all peonies cooperate by falling into easily defined flower form, and some regularly show more than one form on the same plant.

FLOWERS PER STEM (average number): Includes the main flower bud and any side buds.

FLOWER SIZE: Size of the main flower. Generally the diameter is specified, but the height of the bloom could be recorded too.

FLOWER PRESENTATION: Up facing Out Facing Down Facing

Almost every cultivar will have up facing flowers. Out Facing flowers are held at more or less right angles to the stem, such as in Windchimes and Saunders' Early and Late Windflowers. Down Facing flowers are those where the bloom hangs down in a position not suitable for normal viewing. This is typically found in some tree peonies, Souvenir de Maxime Cornu being a prime example.

FRAGRANCE: Very Fragrant Some Fragrance No Fragrance Objectionable Odor
Many peonies have some fragrance, but not all have a strong aroma. A few have an objectionable odour.

PETAL COLOR: Primary: The main petal color. **RHS** If available, a color chart # can be used, but specify the authority. In this case, RHS signifies Royal Horticultural Society.

Secondary: Edging, streaking, overlay, etc... **RHS**

COLOR PATTERNS: If flares or blotches are present, or if petals are of more than one distinct color, or a blend of colors, describe color pattern.

FLARES: Yes No. Color **RHS**

Margin of flare: Sharp edge Blurred edge Bleeding edge

Size of flares as a percent of petal length. % or fraction.

Some peonies have areas of intense pigmentation beginning at the base of the petal and extending outwards to varying degrees. These are called flares and are a common feature of some woody peonies but are also found in a few herbaceous hybrids. Flares are found on the face of the petals, but there are also blotches on the reverse side of petals in some herbaceous hybrids. Lacking a better term, and wanting to distinguish these from the flares found on the front side of petals, they will be called obverse blotches. Often these obverse blotches are more lightly coloured than the surrounding area and they seldom contribute much in the way of beauty.

GUARD PETAL FORM (select all that apply):

Flat Cupped Twisted Rounded Pointed Ruffled Frilled Notched.
 Other (explain) _____

Average width of guard petals _____

CARPELS: None Average Number. Color _____ RHS _____

Hairiness: Smooth Sparse Moderate Very Hairy

STIGMAS: Color: _____ RHS _____ Shape: Normal Feathered

STAMENS: Yes No POLLEN: Yes No SEEDS: Yes No

STAMEN LENGTH: None Less than 1/2" 1/2" to 3/4" More than 3/4"

FILAMENT COLOR: Base _____ RHS _____

Upper _____ RHS _____

Stamens are made up of a pollen bearing anthers supported on small stems called filaments. The filament is sometimes more than one color, with the lower portion (base) often darker than the upper half. "Upper" here does not mean the anther.

STAMINODES: Yes No

STAMINODE SHAPE:

Filamentous – filaments almost normal, therefore closely resemble stamens.

Linear – narrow with parallel sides.

Oblanceolate – growing slightly wider towards the tip.

Spatulate – spoon shaped.

Other – Describe _____.

STAMINODE COLOR AND COLOR PATTERNS: _____

Staminodes are partially transformed stamens seen in some flower forms. In the Japanese flower form they are a diagnostic feature. A rule of thumb is that staminodes have visual evidence of their transformation from stamens, but they don't have exposed pollen. There is usually a yellow edge or tip, though sometimes the color of the body of the staminode is the same as the edge. In these cases there is often a difference in texture between the edges and centre of the staminode. Staminodes become petaloids when they begin to resemble petals, however narrow.

DISK:

Degree of Development: Well Developed and Complete A Few Projections Obscure.

Color: _____

In herbaceous peonies there are often a number of protuberances or bumps surrounding the carpels at the base of the flower. This is the disk, sometimes referred to as the staminodal disk. A well developed disk forms an almost complete ring around the base of the carpels, but in some cultivars there are only a few pointed or rounded projections, or possibly they may be absent or obscure.

SHEATH: None Partial Complete

Color _____ RHS _____

In tree peonies and hybrids between tree peonies and herbaceous peonies, the disk may be extremely well developed to form the sheath, a papery covering enclosing the carpels. The sheath may be found in varying degrees of development and should be recorded from observations of a newly opened flower.

PLANT

LEAFLETS: Finely Cut Broadly Cut Narrow Pointed Broad Pointed Broad Blunt Irregular

LEAF COLOR ON EMERGENCE FROM GROUND: _____

LEAF COLOR WHEN MATURE: Green Yellow-Green Blue Green

Secondary Color: Pink Purple

Other (explain) _____

Stems and foliage often emerge from the ground in shades of red or purple, and then become green as the season progresses. Some retain red stems, or partially so, for varying lengths of time. These characteristics can be both diagnostic features and seen as desirable for plant and garden interest. Secondary leaf colour may refer to variegation, the underside of the leaf, the purplish cast seen on the foliage of some woody peonies, or any other such thing as may be notable.

AVERAGE HEIGHT AT MATURITY: _____ DOES PLANT NEED SUPPORT? Yes No

GROWTH HABIT: Low/Broad Spreading Upright Narrow Upright.

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION

A description written by the applicant is always useful, and this is the place to include information not asked for in the form. Please provide a description of the cultivar that distinguishes it from all others of a similar type and color, and any other information you feel is important or potentially of interest.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Include with your request for registration a color photo, color slide, or color digital image of the flower and of the foliage. A single photograph clearly showing details of flower and foliage is acceptable, though three photos, flower, foliage, and entire plant, provide the best record. The photo of the foliage can be either a single complete stem (herbaceous) or a leaf (woody or intersectional).

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