



Taxonomic Classification of Peony Species

The taxonomic classification of peonies has undergone numerous changes in the past 50 years and will likely continue to as taxonomists use emerging technologies to look at genetic makeups. Thus this is a guide and will likely see further revision as time passes. Many of the species have variants not listed here. This listing uses Hong De-Yuan's taxonomic classification¹.

Genus *Paeonia*

I. Section Moutan

Subsection Delavayanae

- P. delavayi* – (Hong includes plants once identified as *P. lutea*, *P. potanini*)
- P. lutea* – (Yang Group through genomic work)
- P. Potanini* – (Yang Group through genomic work)
- P. ludlowii*

Subsection Vaginatae

- P. cathayana*
- P. decomposita*
- Subspecies:** *decomposita* and *rotundiloba*
- P. jishanensis*
- P. ostii*
- P. qiui*
- P. rockii*

Subspecies: *atava* and *rockii* (*linyanshanii*)

~~*P. suffruticosa*~~ – Not a species, but has historically and incorrectly been treated as such. Genomic studies have proven the other species within this subsection produced a hybrid race which comprises *P. suffruticosa* cultivars. *P. suffruticosa* does not occur in nature as a genetically stable population.

II. Section Onaepia

- P. brownii*
- P. californica*

III. Section Paeonia

Subsection Albiflorae

- P. anomala*
- Subspecies:** *anomala* and *veitchii*
- P. emodi*
- P. lactiflora*
- P. sterniana*

¹ See Hong De-Yuan's publications **Peonies of the World; Taxonomy and Phytogeography** and **Polymorphism and Diversity** for further information. These are two separate publications and were published as limited edition hardcover books.

Subsection Foliatae

P. algeriensis

P. broteroi

P. cambessedesii

P. clusii

Subspecies: *clusii* and *rhodia*

P. coriacea

P. corsica

P. daurica

Subspecies: *daurica*, *corifolia*, *macrophylla*, *mlokosewitschii*, *tomentosa*, *velebitensis* and *wittmanniana*

P. kesrouanensis

P. mairei

P. mascula

Subspecies: *mascula*, *bodurii*, *hellenica* and *russoi*

P. obovata

Subspecies: *obovata*, *Willmottiae*

Subsection Paeonia

P. arietina

P. intermedia – *P. hybrida* is being studied, but is commonly treated as a variety of *P. intermedia*

P. officinalis

Subspecies: *officinallis*, *banatica*, *huthii*, *italica*, *microcarpa*,

P. parnassica

P. peregrina

P. saueri

P. tenuifolia