



Basic Peony Photography Tips

- Take pictures in diffused light to avoid glare often encountered in full sun.
- Take many images – you can choose the best one later on.
- Pick flowers to photograph which do not have defects or damage, as this detracts from its beauty.
- Be watchful of the background. Soil, ground detritus, litter, hardscapes, and man-made structures may cause distraction or cause images to be less appealing.
- Close up images of flowers should be taken on a slight angle – up to 45 degrees. This allows the viewer to see some of the side and front, which is often most appealing. Any angle is acceptable, but some are better.
- Keep your hands out of images (unless you have beautiful hands)-it's a distraction.
- Do not place time stamps or insert text into images (they will not be posted). Use the file name to place the name and your "Nickname" on the image for submission.
- Make sure images are in clear focus – for obvious reasons.
- Avoid using your computer to edit the color of the image, as this often causes many color imbalances which show up in along edges of petals and other places.
- Fill the image only with what you'd like other to see - crop out the rest.
- **When taking images of flowers, make sure the entire flower is in the image, with some extra space around it. Flower parts outside of the photo frame (often petals) are a distraction or unappealing, unless it enhances the image for certain classes.**
- Any camera may be used. Many cell phones have excellent cameras today and these may be used, however you'll need to download images to a computer to crop or resize the image.

Article: [Photography of Peony Flowers](#) is a more detailed article and may be useful if you really would like to take great photographs of peonies.