

# Key to Cultivar Groups\*



**Lactiflora Group.** These are the common garden peonies descended from the Chinese herbaceous peonies. They are diploid in chromosome number. There are more cultivars of these than in any other group. Crosses between members of this group are not considered hybrids. Multiple blooms per stem almost always occur with plants in this group. As a group, they are latest to bloom. Also in this group are the "lactifloras of hybrid origin" which result from hybrids being crossed back to lactifloras to the point they become visually indistinguishable from them.



**Herbaceous Hybrids.** These are herbaceous peonies which have more than one species in their ancestry. Some have pedigrees involving four or more species in their makeup. Typically stems carry one bloom, but sometimes more. Colors tend to be purer and more vibrant than in Lactiflora Group cultivars.



**Itoh Group & Intersectionals.** Itoh Group peonies are hybrids having Lactiflora Group peonies as a seed parent and Lutea Hybrid Group peonies as a 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 woody peony-like foliage and flowers, with herbaceous plant habit.



**Suffruticosa Group.** The group includes the traditional Chinese and Japanese woody peonies (tree peonies), any of the purported Rockii Hybrids, and any other cultivars resulting from crosses within the subsection *Vaginatae* (*P. decomposita*, *P. rotundiloba*, *P. rockii*, *P. ostii*, *P. jishanensis*, *P. qiui* and *P. cathayana*). Subsection *Vaginatae* includes all woody species except those found in the subsection *Delavayanae*.



**Lutea Hybrid Group.** These are woody peony (tree peony) cultivars originally derived by crossing between members of the subsection *Delavayanae* (*P. delavayi*, *P. lutea*, *P. potaninii* and *P. ludlowii*) as one parent, and members of the Suffruticosa Group as the other parent. Crosses within the Lutea Hybrids Group are also included.



**Species Selections.** Examples may be species selections from wild populations or those grown in the garden, which show characteristics desired for introduction into general cultivation.

Cultivar Groups used by APS as the IRCA for *Paeonia*.