



'Gay Paree'

2023 Gold Medal Award Selection



The American Peony Society is pleased to announce 'Gay Paree' as the recipient of the 2023 Gold Medal Award. 'Gay Paree' is a cultivar belonging to the Lactiflora Group, often referred to as the garden peony or bush peony. The plant was hybridized by Edward Auten Jr., of Princeville, Illinois and was registered in 1933.

The cultivar produces vibrant, cerise pink guard petals surrounding a densely packed center of suffused cream petaloids. Flowers exhibit a Japanese/Anemone form. A central tuft of petaloids is often present, which matches the hue found in the guard petals. A pleasantly fragrant cultivar, 'Gay Paree' is excellent for home cut flower arrangements and is sure to please. Two to three side buds, carried on long straight stems, can be expected to extend the bloom and cutting season.

'Gay Paree' is notably one of the most floriferous peonies and established clumps may be expected to produce in excess of 50 flowers during the late-midseason bloom period. Plants exhibit superior stem strength reaching 33 inches (85 cm) and carry the multitude of flowers to perfection. Bright deep green foliage provides a perfect back drop for the colorful blooms. A consistent performer, this cultivar provides a vivid and dramatic presentation, especially in large clumps. Plants are of easy culture, are disease resistant and have been grown successfully in a wide range of climate and soil conditions.

The striking plants provide colorful contrasts which never fail to lift the spirit and induce a smile. APS recommends 'Gay Paree' and believes anyone growing it will value its many fine attributes. 'Gay Paree' was recognized as superior landscape peony in 2014 through the Award of Landscape Merit, providing further support to its many worthy attributes.