

Tips for First Time Peony Exhibitors

LABELING

- Blooms should be labeled before, or at the time, they are cut to avoid having to rely on one's memory.
- Write the name of the variety legibly, using a pencil or waterproof pen, and fasten the label securely to the stem, just below the bloom.
- To exhibit your blooms a show tag will need to be filled out completely with your name, address, division, class and variety. NOTE: Show tags and Division and Class info can be obtained at the show or in advance from the American Peony Society.

CUTTING

- The bloom is ready to be cut when it feels quite soft to the touch, like a marshmallow. For full double flowered varieties the petals will have started to unfurl. With the single and non-full double forms (which open easier) the touch should be much tighter and less soft.
- Until the center softens the bloom will not open well when cut.
- Select buds that have the heaviest stems immediately below the bud, as the biggest diameter stems generally have the biggest flowers.
- Use a sharp knife and cut the stem at least 15 inches in length. Stems will need to be re-cut at the show to approximately 12 inches long for exhibition.
- Depending on the class you will need 1-3 blooms per display container. Cut plenty of stems to choose from, as some of the blooms may not be in their prime at show time. Some may not have reached their desired stage of opening, have opened too much, damaged in transit, etc.
- Never cut more than two-thirds of the blooms on one plant.
- Remove all of the leaves from the cut stem except for the two upper ones.
- Cut and place the stems in cold water immediately while you're in the garden.

STORAGE/TRANSPORTING

- Hold the blooms in a cool room out of drafts.
- If storage is required for more than a day or two, refrigeration will be necessary.
- For short term use there may be no benefit from floral preservative additives.
- If the blooms need to be transported any distance they should be packed in coolers and kept from shifting.

OTHER

- According to the APS Exhibition Rules the exhibitor must grow all entries.
- Standard containers will be furnished at the show.