

BioGuano Program for Peonies

Peonies are native to China and Europe and while growing them in Australia can be a rewarding experience, they do require some specific care to thrive in the warmer and drier climate. Peonies are low-maintenance and don't require fussy care once established. Peonies may take three years to be flowering freely, but then they will live for up to 50 years. If you move house, simply take your precious peonies with you and they'll adapt to new surroundings.

Simple Tips for Great Peonies:

- Choose the right variety and plant in a location that receives at least six hours of direct sunlight each day. Optimum soil pH is 7.0-7.5 and Peonies may benefit from a dressing of Dolomite in Winter.
- Plant in well-drained soil and amend with compost or well-rotted manure to improve its fertility and drainage.
- Planting in late autumn or early winter allows Peonies to establish roots before the warmer months. Apply BioGuano liquid fertiliser at planting. Late planting may result in poor growth and fewer flowers.
- Planting too deep can inhibit flower production. Ensure the growing points are no deeper than 2-3 centimeters below the soil surface.
- Keep moist during growing season and deeply water the soil once or twice a week without waterlogging.
- Mulching helps retain soil moisture, suppresses weeds and maintains a cool root environment. Ensure mulch is not in direct contact with the stems.
- Install stakes early to support stems and heavy blooms through the season.

Peonies are moderate feeders so spread compost thinly in late Winter or early Spring followed by a balanced organic fertiliser, low in nitrogen and high in phosphorus when new growth appears. Avoid over-fertilizing as it leads to weak stems and reduced flower production. To



prepare your Peony for the next season, fertiliser again in late Summer or early Autumn.

Proper air circulation, adequate spacing between plants, and avoiding overhead watering can help prevent disease issues. Watch for aphids or powdery mildew and use organic pest control methods or insecticidal soaps if necessary.

Remember that peonies can take a few years to establish and produce their best blooms, so be patient. With the right care and attention, you can enjoy the stunning beauty of peonies in your Australian garden. Choosing a BioGuano liquid fertiliser maintenance program will reward you with spectacular blooms and healthy foliage.

- Flowering additive for bigger, brighter and more colourful blooms,
- A separate organic Nitrogen Formula to allow precise control of nitrogen.
- Added seaweed and humates to stimulate the root system and reduce stress from periods of heat, cold, dry and pest and disease attack,
- Organic carbon to improve soil health in all soil types,
- Promotes healthy growth without excessive foliage,
- Natural source of trace elements to support the major nutrients.

Seasonal Timing	Recommended Usage Rate		Comments
	BioGuano+	BioGuano NF	
Spring & Summer	15 mL	30 mL	Per 9 L Watering Can spread over 2-4 m ² . Repeat every 1-2 weeks or as required. SHAKE well before use.
Autumn & Winter	30 mL	15 mL	
Foliar Sprays	3 mL/L	3 mL/L	Apply to foliage in the morning or mid-afternoon. Delay sprays on hot days (over 28°C). Safe to pollinators and beneficial insects.
NF = BioGuano Nitrogen Formula an organic, easily absorbed nitrogen and potassium fertiliser.			
Note: Shake Well, 1 Cap = 15 mL			

BioGuano Program for Peonies (continued)

Here are the basics for fertilizing peonies:

- In late winter or early spring, apply a thin layer of compost over the flower bed area (easiest to do before spring growth begins).
- Once the stems are about a foot high in mid-spring, apply an organic, slow-release granular fertiliser to the soil around the stems of the plant. Good peony fertiliser options include rose food, bulb fertiliser, perennial flower fertiliser, and bone meal.

Spring peony feeding starts with a simple top-dressing of compost at the end of wintertime. Clear any remaining plant debris from the flower bed and apply an inch of homemade compost over the entire area as an organic mulch. The compost gives a lovely, dark uniform background for the plants and will also give them a nutritional boost as they come out of dormancy.

Check that the peony fertiliser you've chosen is organic, lower in nitrogen (N), and higher in phosphorus (P). I like to look for products that are OMRI-Listed as safe for use in organic growing. Apply the fertiliser sparingly and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and local regulations.

Apply fertiliser to peonies in the spring when the stems have grown to be about a foot tall (30 cm). The leaves will be starting to unfurl at this point. Frosty nights should be few and far between.

Another telltale sign that it's time to fertilise peonies is that the first flower buds have started to appear. These tiny flower buds start to become noticeable when the stems

are just starting to leaf out. See the photo above for an example of what baby flower buds look like. It's time to feed the peony plants!

If you do want to feed them twice per year, the second feeding can occur in late summer/early fall to help the roots prepare for winter.

Watch for the peony stems to appear, grow to about one foot, and start to put up tiny flower buds. Apply slow-release organic fertiliser when the first tiny flower buds appear. Water deeply following peony fertiliser application.

Growing peony roses and giving them the love and attention they require will allow new shoots to sprout in spring. At this stage of the peony rose's life, it will form into glossy dark green foliage that looks fantastic in both pots and your garden.

Flowering will then commence from mid-spring through summer, depending on the variety. Flowers come in shades of white, pink, rose and red. Your Peony Rose bush will start to die back and go into dormancy in autumn.

You can grow peony roses in pots or in your garden. When looking for the perfect spot to plant your Peony Rose, look for a space that receives both part shade and full sun throughout the day. As a part of your peony rose care, select a position that ensures your Peony Rose can enjoy the morning sun while being protected from the scorching afternoon sun. To take proper care of Peony Roses, also make sure that they are protected from the wind.