

# September

Dear peony grower,

Provide the peonies sufficient water outside and in the greenhouses and tunnels in order to allow the soil to take in all the fertilizers. Drought in this period will damage the flower production for next year. Therefore an active soil life is important. A moist soil and proper organic matter are important for the absorption of the fertilizers. You will have to pay attention to these matters.

## **Mowing the crop**

It is common that the peony crops are spared until at least halfway through September. When you are saving the green parts of the plant, you are saving the growth. Even a dying plant ensures the growth of a tuber. In fact, the strongest growth in the underground parts of a peony takes place when the plant is dying.

## **Leaf nematodes and rosebuds**

Consider cutting off your crop early in September in order to limit leaf nematodes and rosebuds. Leaf nematodes hibernate in the dead foliage that is lying on the ground and in the young growing spots of the peony. Mow the crop relatively early in the fall and remove crop residues.

Do this in dry conditions only!

## **Botrytis control**

Although the growing season has just ended, preparations need to be done to have a good crop in the following spring. An important part of the preparation is the control of Botrytis, which already starts right after the summer. It is important do a Botrytis control (for example with Collis) after the mowing or cutting in order to kill all infections. When this is not done correctly, it is possible that the infections will develop in the winter. That can cause peonies falling over in the spring.

The autumn control is just as important as the spring control of Botrytis. Remove the crop residues too because of the potential danger of Botrytis and leaf nematodes.

Cutting height: research has shown that a Botrytis inhibitory effect occurs when the crop is not cut too short in the fall. This will reduce the chance of peonies falling over in the next spring. A cutting height of 10 cm. above the ground is better for the crop than to cut it directly above the ground.

## **Weed control**

If it is not possible to keep the parcel free of weeds, than it is wise to mow the crop. Especially when large parts of the crop already died. It has no use to keep the crop when it is overgrown by weeds.

### Leaf nematodes can infect the parcel by lifting on weed (seeds)

It is important to have all the weeds gone before the winter. Peonies are very sensitive for *Roundup*. This should never be used with grass in between the peonies. Roundup will be absorbed via the roots of the plant. Basta can be used for a parcel full of weeds. You could add some urea. If there is a lot of grass growing on and between the beds it can be useful to add some chlorpropham to the mix.

### Yellow fruit tree Auchenorrhyncha

Insects of the Auchenorrhyncha family are spotted in more and more peony varieties that are grown in the greenhouse. They only appear after flowering and therefore they are not harmful in small quantities. Most of them can be seen in August and that is also the best time to get rid of them. They will lay their eggs in September. Note: most times you will not get rid of these insects in once.



### Growing tip: peonies after cutting

Peonies have to recover after they have been cut, but at the same time they have to start producing the new shoots for the next season. We advise the following product:

Photo Finish

This product contains silicon and kali. Silicon makes the leave harder. Photo Finish takes care of the sugar supply to the roots, which will also store some reserves. Kali also has a positive effect on the sugar content. **Six times three liter per hectare** with an interval of two weeks. It makes it more difficult, but do not mix Photo Finish with other products. The alternative is **three times five liter per hectare** with an interval of a month. Only use Photo Finish after the cut, because of the chance of residue. That will have a negative result on the decorative value of the plant.

### Planting time of new peony plants

The best time to plant peonies is in autumn. The colder period is better for the rooting of the plant. This will result in more crops in the coming spring. But try to plant the peonies at least before mid. November. Peonies that will be planted in autumn should not be refrigerated during the storage. When the cooling period is too long, the plant will start growing during the winter en this will damage the plant in the winter or early in the spring.

## Cooling during storage

The peonies are being harvested and stored in the months September, October en November until it is time for planting. The cooling temperature is the outdoor temperature.

- When it is not clear if the plants are being planted before the winter than the plants must be stored above 5 degrees C. to prevent the plants from scouting
- Until November: no cooling. The outdoor temperature is sufficient
- November and December: store at 2 degrees C.
- January: store the plants well packed at 0 to -2 degrees C.
- **Important!** Do not aim a fan directly to the plants. They will dry out faster if that happens. The dehydration of the roots can be disastrous for peonies.

## Green Works Care™

After extensive research in collaboration with various institutions in the Netherlands and abroad we introduce Green Works Care™. The differences between the standard warm water treatments and Green Works Care™ became very clear in our research. Read the benefits below:

- No damage caused in contrary with the traditional warm water treatment
- The plants are less dehydrated when they have had our new treatment
- Preventive treatment against root knot nematodes and leaf nematodes
- The plants retain more growing power and vigor
- The plants grow better in the first year
- The plants produce more flowers in the second and third year

## The planting process:

Preparation:

- Take a soil sample and nematode sample
- Take care of a good soil structure
- Take care of a good drainage
- Free of root weeds
- Timely weed control
- Prior crop with nematode residu
- Go to the auction and visit parcels

Planting time:

- Create a planting scheme. Outside: September – March (autumn is the best planting time)
- It is important that the ground is well prepared because of the structure and watering
- Drainage the parcel
- Planting in moist soil
- Eyes should be pointed upwards
- Keep in mind: areas where you drive with the tractor for spraying and removing flowers when harvesting
- Keep in mind: in the future you possibly want to place plastic tunnels in the greenhouses



Planting depth:

- Around 5-7 centimeter soil on top of the roots (planting to deep: less flowers). The whole plant must be below the ground: no areas of the plant/roots can be above the ground

**In order to deliver high quality, our plants meet the following requirements:**

- Young and healthy planting material (two year crop)
- True to variety
- Free of nematodes
- Free of invasive weeds
- Dutch grown and NAKT inspected (Dutch Plant Inspection)
- Well-sized, on average we deliver:
  - 2-3 eyes (75 roots per lily crate)\*
  - 3-5 eyes (50 roots per lily crate) \*
- We have professional photos available for our customers

\* Depends on variety

**Have a look at [our website](#) or contact us for more information:**

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*Green Works supplies young planting material for the professional cultivation of pot plants and (summer) cut flowers. Green Works is also a large supplier of peonies for the successful cultivation and trade in the Netherlands and abroad. We supply within the Netherlands and globally to professional growers and (export) traders. With support in cultivation, promotion and sales, Green Works offers a total package to put an unique and healthy product on the market: <http://www.green-works.nl/en>*

Green Works can never be held liable for any cultural information given and only to be used as a guideline. The grower is at all times responsible for his own action and to read the label of the chemicals being used.

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