

# Peony Care newsletter: March

Dear peony grower,

For a long time now you are receiving this newsletter from us. With information regarding the cultivation of peonies. Because we are always looking for ways to improve ourselves, we would like to hear from you how relevant this information actually is. What are things you would like to see differently and are there topics on which you would like to receive more information? We greatly appreciate any feedback, so please let us know!

## Watering

Paeonia is a sensitive crop. The crop is not strong due to the fast growth after sprouting. The plant repels its weakest flowers when the growth is fast while the weather is bleak. Especially during cold nights the frost will be blamed for this, but a lack of water is most likely the main reason. A sudden spell of warm weather during the stretching increases the risk too. Do not wait with watering until the soil is dry, but make it as pleasant for the plant as possible.

Click [here](#) for all the information regarding Watering.

## Botrytis

The first treatment against Botrytis has to take place when the plants start to emerge. The new shoots can be infected when they emerge from the soil due to the fact that the fungus lingers at the surface of the soil during the winter. Drenching the soil with Collis or Luna can reduce the number of infected plants - for example with a sensitive variety like Flame - by more than 90%. Peonies damaged by the wind and frost are also more sensitive. Varieties in which Botrytis was present

after flowering in the previous season, also need extra care. We would really like to emphasize the need to treat the plants timely and preventively. There is an advantage in doing so.

Click [here](#) for all the information regarding Botrytis.

## Weed control

Weed control in peonies is more of a matter of discipline than a choice of means. In weed control the amount of organic content is almost only the most important factor. A heavy clay soil with almost little to no humus is light soil for weed control. The effect of a weed control product is being determined by a small line between effect and damage.

Click [here](#) for all the information regarding Weed control.

## Fertilizing

A quality peony needs a well-balanced fertilizing. The time in which a little bit of this and a little bit of that was enough, has passed. Peonies that have been standing in the same spot for multiple years can deplete the soil and therefore they need fertilizers.

Click [here](#) for all the information regarding Fertilizing.

## Main elements

**Nitrogen** is the element that is absorbed the most and the easiest by the plant. A peony needs a lot of nitrogen during strong growth, like in the first weeks with vegetative growth (length growth). There are two types of nitrogen in your soil: ammonium nitrogen and nitrate nitrogen. Ideally we see equal amounts of each (a 1:1 ratio). Multiple problems can occur when there is a shortage of nitrogen. The older foliage might turn yellow to light green. The plants might flower too early, have less length growth and are more sensitive to fungal diseases and insects.

Too many nitrogen is not good for the Ca/Mg absorption.

Click [here](#) for all the information regarding Main elements.



### What are DCM organic fertilizers?

Organic fertilizers are composed of plant material and animal raw materials. All materials have a natural origin. Soil organisms – such as bacteria and fungi – are slowly breaking the fertilizer down. Nutrients inside the fertilizer (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium for example) are released in this process. Through the use of multiple raw materials and gradual digestion, the nutrients are available to the plants over a longer period of time - about 100 days.

Click [here](#) for all information from DCM.



The first shoots are coming out of the ground. The plant wants to get its sugar transport going again. Especially in this initial phase the crop needs boron, silicon and calcium. These three elements play a crucial role in the start of the growth:

- 1) Boron activates silicon;
- 2) Silicon starts the absorption of elements, starting with calcium;
- 3) Calcium takes care of strong cell walls and thus a resilient crop.



Click [here](#) for all information from Karo.

### When planting peonies; the benefits of the investing in 3-5 eyes compared to 2-3 eyes:

Number of stems/flowers per plant (2-3 or 3-5 eyes):

Variety	Year	Amount of stems	
		2-3 eyes	3-5 eyes
Sarah Bernhardt	planting in autumn:	2018	
	spring	2019	0
	spring	2020	0
	spring	2021	4
	spring	2022	6
	spring	2023	7
	spring	2024	7
	spring	2025	8
		32	45

In the following link you will find our extensive and updated peony assortment of 2019 – 2020:

[Peony Catalog 2019 – 2020](#)

Green Works also supplies other summer flower starting material, like: Ranunculus Butterfly™, Ranunculus Romance™, Ranunculus Royal XXL™, Asclepias Beatrix® and Helleborus or. Queens™.

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For more information, please consult [our website](#) or contact:

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Also, follow Green Works on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for more relevant information about peonies amongst other things.



*Green Works supplies young planting material for the professional cultivation of pot plants and (summer) cut flowers. Green Works is also a large grower 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: [www.green-works.nl/en](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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