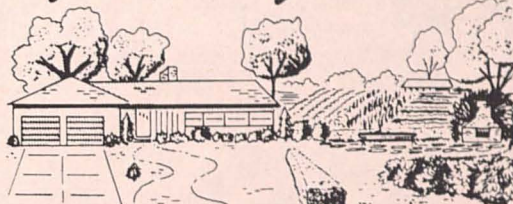


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Yard 'n' Garden



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TRANSPLANTING PEONIES

Late August or early September is a good time to transplant peonies which are blooming poorly or to plant new peonies. Peonies may be blooming poorly because they are too deep or are infested with disease or insects.

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Before transplanting be sure to discard roots which show signs of disease or insect infestation.

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The first step is to prepare the soil where the peonies are to be planted. Select a sunny location for peonies. Don't plant them where there will be competition from tree roots.

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Space peony clumps about 24 inches apart. Dig the hole 18 inches deep and a foot in diameter for each peony. In the bottom of the hole place 6 inches of well rotted cattle manure, leaf mold or compost. Cover this with 3 to 4 inches of soil. Then place the plant in the hole.

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Peonies should be planted no deeper than 2 inches. Firming the soil to avoid settling is extremely important. After the soil has been thoroughly packed around the root, cover the top with loose soil.

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Mulch peonies with straw or marsh hay the first winter.

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