

PEONY PALOOZA!
Exhibitor's Guide 2023

Do you grow your own peonies and want to show them off? Enter your peonies into Peony Palooza at the Scott Arboretum! There are two categories open to the public: cut peonies and floral arranging. Each category has a **competitive** (judged) and **non-competitive** (not judged) option. Continue reading to learn more about entering your peonies into the show.

Who: [Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College](#) and the [Mid-Atlantic Peony Society](#)

Where:

[Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College: Wister Center](#)

500 College Ave.
Swarthmore, PA 19081

Complete Schedule:

Date	Time	Activity
Tuesday, May 23	4 - 7 pm	Drop off for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competitive cut peonies - Non-competitive cut peonies - Competitive flower arrangement - Non-competitive flower arrangements
	7pm	Judging of competitive cut peonies to begin.
Wednesday, May 24	9:30 am - noon	Drop off for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-competitive cut peonies - Competitive flower arrangement - Non-competitive flower arrangements
	1 - 7 pm	Peony Show Open to Public
	3 pm	Judging for competitive floral arranging to begin.
	3 - 6 pm	Make and Take Youth Peony Arranging
	5:30 pm	Judging for Youth Peony Arranging Contest
Thursday, May 25	10 am - 5 pm	Peony Show Open to Public
	3 pm	Garden Peony Tour
	5 - 7 pm	Pick up of all Peony Entries*

* Any entries not picked up by 7pm on May 25 will be given away or composted.

Tips for Cutting Peonies:

- Early in the morning is ideal for cutting flowers.
- Select a bloom that is either at the marshmallow stage (soft and squishy) or starting to open.
- Cut the stem on the diagonal with sharp clippers or a sharp knife, 12 to 24 inches below the herbaceous bloom (shorter for Itoh and tree peonies).
- Place cut stem(s) in a container of room temperature water (optional: adding floral preservatives or drops of lemon juice to water to prevent bacteria clogging the stem).
- Bring the bloom indoors and keep it away from direct sunlight and heat sources.
- If the flower is opening too quickly, you can place the container and cut flowers in the refrigerator to slow the growth cycle down.
- If you notice a lot of ants on your peony, submerge it in room temperature water and the ants should float to the surface.

How To Enter Cut Peony Flowers: Competitive and Non-Competitive

- Competitive cut peonies will be judged Tuesday, May 23 starting at 7pm

Before You Deliver your Entry: Decide which class(es) you would like to enter cut peony flowers.

Classes for Cut Herbaceous Peonies

- CLASS 1: 3 blossoms—red, same cultivar
- CLASS 2: 3 blossoms—white, same cultivar
- CLASS 3: 3 blossoms—coral/peach, same cultivar
- CLASS 4: Flower form—Single: 1 blossom—any color
- CLASS 5: Flower form—Japanese or Semi-Double: 1 blossom—any color
- CLASS 6: Flower form—Anemone: 1 blossom—any color
- CLASS 7: Flower form—Double: 1 blossom—any color
- CLASS 8: 3 blossoms, any flower form, 3 different colors

Classes for Tree and Itoh Hybrid Peonies

- CLASS 9: Tree (woody) peony, 1 blossom, any color, any flower form
- CLASS 10: Itoh hybrid (Intersectional), 1 blossom, any color, any flower form

Entry Details

- Exhibitors can place multiple entries into classes 1, 2, and 3, as long as the entries are of different cultivars.
- Exhibitors can place only one entry into classes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.
- Exhibitors can place entries in all 10 classes.

At the Scott Arboretum (Wister Center):

- Park along College Avenue or in the Wister Center parking lot.
- Go inside the Wister Center and find a volunteer to assist with entering your peony into the show.
 - Glass vases and jars with water will be provided.
- **Groom your peony:** Any leaves that would find themselves below water level need to be removed. It is your choice if you want to remove all leaves or leave one leaf.
- **Confirm which class(es)** you should enter with a volunteer. (For competitive entries only).
- **Fill out a 3" x 5" index card** (provided) with the name of the class (competition only), the exhibitor's name, and the cultivar (if known) for each entry.

Tips for Judged Peonies

- Stem length for herbaceous cut peonies should be 12"-18". Itoh hybrid peonies should have stems at least 12" and tree peonies typically are shorter, but need to be long enough to provide support to the blossom in a short vase.
 - At the time of judging the peonies should be approaching or in full bloom.
 - Judging is based on:
 - Condition 25%
 - Form 25%
 - Color 25%
 - Stem and foliage 10%
 - Size 15%
 - Uniformity is important for the classes with more than one blossom per vase.
 - Cultivar names are not required for entry or for judging, but can be helpful to educate the public about the peonies they admire.
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How To Enter Flower Arrangements: Competitive and Non - Competitive

- Competitive Flower Arrangements will be Judged on Wednesday, May 24 starting at 3pm

Design your arrangement at home.

Guidelines for Flower Arrangements:

- Competitive arrangements must have at least three peonies. Non-competitive arrangements must have at least one peony.
- The arrangement cannot be larger than 22 inches wide by 30 inches deep.
- Non-Competitive Arrangements:
 - Put your name on the bottom of the container with tape.

At the Scott Arboretum (Wister Center):

- Park along College Avenue or in the Wister Center parking lot.

- Go inside the Wister Center and find a volunteer to assist with entering your flower arrangement into the show.
- Find the competitive or non - competitive arrangement area.
- Fill out a 3x5 index card (provided) with the exhibitor's name.
- Water will be available to top off the container, if needed.

Floral Arrangement Judging Rubric (Competitive only)

Floral arrangements will be judged on a 20 point scale, with each category below being worth a maximum of 5 points.

- Originality
- Construction
- Color Harmony
- Design Balance and Proportion

Youth Peony Arranging Contest

Entry Details:

- Wednesday, May 24 from 3 - 5:30 pm
- Children of all ages are welcome to participate.
- Arrangements will be created on-site using materials provided by the Arboretum.
- Children will be able to take home their arrangements after the program.
- Children have the option to make their flower arrangements and take them without entering the competition.

Flower Arrangement Judging Criteria

- Youth Peony Arranging will be judged using a 12 point rubric, with each category being worth a maximum of 3 points.
 - Color
 - Balance
 - Harmony
 - Proportion
- Classes will be based on age ranges of children.
- Judging will be held at 5:30 pm
- The top three floral arrangements in each class will have the opportunity to enter their floral arrangement into the adult exhibition that evening and be presented in the public show on Thursday, May 25 from 10 am - 5 pm.

Pick up of all entries:

- Children can make their flower arrangements and take them home at the conclusion of the judging on Wednesday, May 24th around 6 pm.

- Children can pick up their arrangement between 10 am - 7 pm on Thursday, May 25 at the Wister Center.
- Any entries not picked up by 7pm on May 25 will be given away or composted.

Contact Jeff Jabco (jjabco1@swarthmore.edu) from the Scott Arboretum or Bernie Miller (brmilleriii@yahoo.com) of Mid-Atlantic Peony Society if you have any questions.