



FORT TICONDEROGA

National Historic Landmark

Flower of the Week

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Common Name:	Peony
Botanical Name:	Paeonia sp.
Family:	Paeoniaceae
Plant Type:	Herbaceous Perennial Flower
Season of Bloom:	Late Spring

Peonies are native to Asia, southern Europe, and western North America. These showy plants have been cultivated for more than 2000 years for medicinal and ornamental purposes. Today, they are extensively grown as ornamental plants for their very large, often scented flowers.

The Chinese revered them, as did other countries in Asia. The Greeks had a myth about them, and gave them their modern name. Romans brought this plant to England where it is still widely used. The peony is the state flower of Indiana.



Peonies are long-lived, surviving decades with little care. Unlike many perennials, peonies can thrive for decades without being divided. The King's Garden features one of the two main types, herbaceous peonies. The flowers range in color to include white, blush, pink, and magenta. Blooms may be single, semi-double, or double. Their scent can be classified as rose, lemon, honey, or musk. Other desired characteristics include drought tolerance and deer resistance, and they are hardy (cold-tolerant) to USDA zone 2, which extends into Canada.