

## Black Pirate Tree Peony

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### Black Pirate Tree Peony *Paeonia suffruticosa* 'Black Pirate'

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 4a

#### Description:

An attractive tree peony for the garden, with bold flowers in a rich deep red that is almost black, with prominent golden stamens in the center; great as an accent in the garden; unlike perennial peonies, remember not to prune this variety

#### Ornamental Features

Black Pirate Tree Peony features bold lightly-scented dark red flowers with black eyes and gold centers at the ends of the branches from mid to late spring. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has green deciduous foliage. The lobed compound leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.

#### Landscape Attributes

Black Pirate Tree Peony is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should never be pruned except to remove any dieback, as it tends not to take pruning well. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Black Pirate Tree Peony is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

#### Planting & Growing

Black Pirate Tree Peony will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.



*Black Pirate Tree Peony flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.