

## Peony Zoom Meeting February 18, 2021

### THE GARDENER'S GUIDE TO PEONIES

#### NOTES BY NANCY RASH

It was difficult to manage Zoom, take notes and watch all the photos of beautiful peonies in the presentation by Harvey Buchite. I'll send some highlights from February 18 and I encourage you to look at his website.

The peony world has award winning peonies that include the American Peony Society Gold Medal (GM) and Award of Landscape Merit (ALM) peonies. In response to the question about selecting peonies that will not droop, it was recommended to select a peony from one of the GM or ALM lists.

I especially liked his directions for a 20% increase in the bloom size. Who wouldn't want extra large booms! Take off the side buds when they are pea size. (some of mine never open anyway). And to avoid bringing in ants with your bouquet, pick the peonies early in the morning before the ants are out.

Harvey recommended looking for a recipe on line for a home-made spray to prevent powdery mildew. The secret is to apply very early in the season. That means, before the mildew becomes a problem. The formula is 2.5 tablespoons of Neem oil (or Sunspray) and 1 tablespoon of baking soda in 1 gallon of water.

There was a question about fertilization of peonies. Use bulb food with low nitrogen and high potassium. The best ratio for a sandy soil would be 8-16-32. For gardeners in the rich fertile soils of Iowa the lower ratio of bulb food, 3-5-3 would work well. One of the key points is that over fertilizing with a high nitrogen liquid fertilizer used for annuals would likely result in more disease problems.

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You might want to look for Hidden Springs peony introductions: Romantic Lace and Romantic Elegance. Harvey and his wife Brigitte grow more than peonies so visit them on the web or on face book. Better yet, take a trip to see Hidden Springs Flower Farm.



**Harvey Buchite**  
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<https://www.hiddenspringsflowerfarm.com/index.html>





Harvey Buchite Peonies



Now, about those Deer on Page 1 in the Timber .....

Did You Find All The Deer ?

I'm Willing to Bet You DID Find All The Deer in the Photo on Page 1

.....Because There

Are

Only two (this was a trick question).



SOON THE WORDS TO BE HEARD  
ROUND THE WORLD

**“FIRE UP THE GRILL, MAN” !**

**“dear,” do you have a 1 track mind ?**



**This “deer” did ~ one track up the ditch**