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### **Festiva Maxima Peony**

***Paeonia 'Festiva Maxima'***

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 30 inches

Sunlight: ☉ ●

Hardiness Zone: 2

#### **Description:**

An heirloom variety with large, globular double white blooms streaked with red at the center; a dependable, fragrant and vigorous plant; strong stems but staking required

#### **Ornamental Features**

Festiva Maxima Peony features bold lightly-scented white flowers with crimson streaks at the ends of the stems from late spring to early summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its compound leaves emerge burgundy in spring, turning green in color throughout the season.

#### **Landscape Attributes**

Festiva Maxima Peony is an herbaceous perennial with a more or less rounded form. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Disease

Festiva Maxima Peony is recommended for the following landscape applications;



*Festiva Maxima Peony flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Festiva Maxima Peony in bloom*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

### **Planting & Growing**

Festiva Maxima Peony will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 3 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 3 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 30 inches apart. The flower stalks can be weak and so it may require staking in exposed sites or excessively rich soils. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Moana Lane Garden Center & Corporate Office  
1100 W. Moana Lane  
Reno, NV 89509  
(775) 825-0600  
(775) 825-0602 – Corporate Office

South Virginia St. Garden Center  
11301 S. Virginia Street  
Reno, NV 89511  
(775) 853-1319

Pyramid Way Garden Center  
3397 Pyramid Way  
Sparks, NV 89431  
(775) 425-4300

Landscape Services & Design Center  
1190 W. Moana Lane  
Reno, NV 89509  
(775) 825-0602 ext. 134  
NV Lic. #3379A, D & CA Lic. #317448

[www.moananursery.com](http://www.moananursery.com)