Growing peonies in Fairbanks

- Grow well as long as get snow cover before it gets really cold
- 4 or 5 years until strong enough to harvest
- Later bloom dates will produce the most valuable stems
Peony root stock

- Dig and divide in fall before ground freezes or
- Plant first thing in the spring if getting in new stock from lower
Planting peony tubers

- Dig a deep hole
- Put bone meal and fertilizer in the hole
- Add soil to the bottom of the hole
- Make sure the eyes are 2 inches only below soil level
- Fill hole carefully making sure to get soil tight around roots and tubers

Figure 1. Plant peony tubers at the proper depth.
Harvesting peony buds for sale

- Harvest when in marshmallow stage
- Keep in cold storage at 34 degrees until sell to florist
Caring for plants

- Top dress with 10-20-20 at 4 lb per acre each year
- Prune out any brown stems or buds
Caring for plants

- Stake up plants to keep flowers from falling over onto the ground
Caring for plants

• Disbud all but the main bud to get a bigger, single flower on each stem
Caring for plants

- Cut back vegetation and remove from garden before snow in the fall.
Low Input/Organic Agriculture at Latitude 64° North: Why Bother with IPM?

Alberto Pantoja, Aaron Hagerty, and Susan Emmert
USDA-ARS
Subarctic Agricultural Research Unit
Fairbanks, Alaska
Normal Buds/Bloom

“Peony Budblast” Symptoms
Possible Causative Agents

Western Flower Thrips: 
*Frankliniella occidentalis* (Pergande)

- *Lygus spp.*
Ann Berry Cousins

• Single
Nippon Beauty

- Japanese type
Pink Hawaiian Coral

- Semi double
Sarah Barnhart

- Bomb type
Belleville

- Anemone Bomb