

Paeonia...

... peregrina



In Romania, steppe peonies are mostly found in Zău de Câmpie, blooming for a short period, usually between April and May. Their flowers possess a deep crimson colour, and a rounded or even blunt top. The peony is a very fragile plant, this being the main cause for its widespread extinction all across Europe: when cut from its stem, the flower withers away in just minutes.

The mostly single flower per stem seems to be floating on the foliage. The flower is 6–8 cm across, cup-shaped. The stamens are 1.5–2 cm long, with yellow filaments, anthers and pollen. There are usually three coarse felty haired carpels, that will eventually develop into 2 cm long, dry, dehiscent fruits called follicles.

The wild Romanian Peony — *Paeonia peregrina* — is a species endemic to southeastern Romania, most notably the Dobrogea region, which the Măcin Mountains are part of. One of its most distinguishable characteristics are the teeth-lobed leaflets. Other features include bristles along the veins on the upper surface, as well as flaming red and cup-shaped corollas that encase a golden core.

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Legend:

a. petal

b. pistil

c. seed

d. stamen

e. sepal

f. stem

g. leaves

h. flower

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... tenuifolia

