

POPPY

Papaver ssp.



Papaver rhoeas

Papaver paeoniflorum

Characteristics

- Type: Annual
 - Family: Papaveraceae
 - Zone: 3 to 10
 - Height: 0.75 to 4.25 feet
 - Spread: 0.50 to 1.00 feet
 - Bloom Time: April to August
- Bloom: Varies
 - Sun: Full sun
 - Water: Medium
 - Maintenance: Low
 - Suggested Use: Annual, Naturalize
 - Flower: Showy

Culture

Best grown in organically rich, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun. Best in cool summer climates. Appreciates some light afternoon shade in hot summer climates. Performs well in average garden soils as long as drainage is good. Intolerant of drought. Also intolerant of overly moist soils, particularly if poorly drained. This is a vigorously self-seeding annual which easily remains in the garden from year to year.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Papaver rhoeas is known by a variety of common names including Flanders poppy, corn poppy, field poppy or common poppy. It is an annual poppy that typically grows to 9-18" tall. It is native to Europe and Asia, but has been introduced with subsequent naturalization occurring in a number of locations in the western, central and eastern parts of the continental U.S. This poppy features scarlet red, 4-6 petaled flowers (each to 2" across) on long peduncles, with each flower petal having a distinctive black blotch at the base. This poppy is considered to be an agricultural weed in Europe, hence the common names of corn poppy and field poppy.

Papaver paeoniflorum

Peony poppies are easy-to-grow flowers that cheer-up and add spark to even the most bland of gardens. They are planted in fall or early spring and produce huge, double 4-5 in. wide, deeply frilled flowers on sturdy, 2-3 ft. tall plants. These beautiful poppy varieties take their name from the peony. *Papaver paeoniflorum* flowers are a mass of intensely rippled petals that give them charm and elegance. They come in a lovely range of colors, from hot pink and salmon, through to striped and antique white.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Wet, poorly-drained soils can cause significant problems such as root rot, particularly in winter. Botrytis and powdery mildew may also occur.

Garden Uses

Best in clumps or small groups in border fronts and rock gardens.