



## Oriental Poppy (*Papaver orientalis*)

Marsha Thomson, UMN Extension Crow Wing County Master Gardener Volunteer

Large brightly colored flower, 4-6 inch diameter, petals reminiscent of paper. The petals usually have a dark blotch at their base. Buds nod down at first but raise their heads as they unfurl. Stems are stiff and hairy. Leaves look thistle-like, tightly packed with deep lobes and rich silvery green color. After blooming, plants die back by mid-late summer which leaves gaps in beds. Very showy flowers with a black/purple center with petals in a wide color range, although the most common are orange or red.

Type	Herbaceous perennial
Hardiness Zone	3 - 7
Sun	Full sun (6+ hours) to partial shade
Bloom Time	Late spring - early summer
Height	1 - 3 feet
Spread	1 - 2 feet
Tolerance	Deer, drought and rabbits
Attracts	Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds

### Soil and Site Recommendations

- Drainage: well-drained, organically-rich soil
- Soil pH: 6.5 - 7.5
- Type: clay, loam or sand
- Placement considerations: as poppies die back after blooming, another plant may be placed to fill the gap

### Planting Recommendations

- Type: tends to self-seed in the garden; transplanting is difficult and the plant may not survive
- When to plant: Fall, as seeds need cold and sunlight to germinate. Container grown plants can be planted in the spring.
- Depth of planting: barely enough soil to cover seeds
- Mulching: mulch in late fall until well established
- Spacing: 18 - 24 inches
- Spread: Plants will clump together and also self-seed.



- Division/transplant tips: Plants do not handle transplanting well and it is best to propagate from seed. They may be divided every five years if crowded, although division is challenging due to possible damage to the deep taproot.

### **Maintenance**

- Watering: while in bloom, one inch per week; do not overwater to avoid root rot.
- Fertilization: slow-release fertilizer or compost
- Pinching/deadheading: removal of spent flowers promotes more flowers.; after the flower has faded, seeds from the dried seed pods may be saved for future planting.
- Annual maintenance: minimal, although plants may be divided if crowded.

### **Common Problems**

Disease: No serious problems, although root rot may occur in wet, poorly drained soil. Powdery mildew may be avoided if planted in full sun.

Insects: No serious problems.

### **Resources**

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu>

Questions or problems: check “What’s wrong with my plant” at:

<https://apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/plant/>

### **Additional facts:**

Pods that succeed flowers are used in dry arrangements or crafts.

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