

Poppy Series

- Tissue paper-like blooms
- Grow easily in all climates
- Flowers may be single, double or semi-double
- Florists delight in the colours available
- Suitable for greenhouse or field production

Poppies have a long history, they were grown as ornamental plants in about 5,000 BC in Mesopotamia. The flowers may be single, double or semi-double. The flower buds are nodding or bent downwards, turning upwards as they open. Flowers consist of two layers: the outer layer of two dark furry sepals drops off as the bud opens. The inner layer consists of 4 (but sometimes 5 or 6) brightly coloured petals that expand and unfurl.

Poppies are dramatic on their own or create an artful arrangement when paired with other foliage.

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CULTURAL INFORMATION

Papaver nudicaule

CROP TIME: Allow 10 weeks from plug to flower.

PLANTING DENSITY: 15-30cm spacing.

PRE-PLANTING:

- **MEDIA:** Plant in free draining soil with good air circulation around the plants.
- **pH:** 5.8 to 6.0
- It is important poppies are sown early enough to ensure they have made sufficient vegetative growth prior to flowering.

FERTILISATION: Crops can develop nitrogen deficiency during december, which will reduce yield.

IRRIGATION: Poppies require water being available at times that are physiologically

critical to the plants. These times include germination and establishment, vegetative growth, hook stage and flowering and post flowering prior to leaf senescence.

HARVEST: Harvest at split bud stage or as soon as you can see the flower colour through the calyx.

POST HARVEST: Keep cool at all times. Recut 2 cm off each stem with sharp secateurs, to remove the seared stem end and place in cold water immediately. Do not mix with other flowers for the first 24 hours after stem ends are cut. Preservative is needed, it will help buds to open and flowers to last. Replace water every day

INSECTS AND DISEASES:

- Aphids
- Mites
- Snails
- Downy mildew
- Leaf smut
- Sclerotinia