



CALIFORNIA POPPY

Scientific name: *Eschscholzia californica*
Plant family: Papaveraceae

Natural Information

California poppies flowers from February to September, in grassy open areas and dune habitats at elevations below 2000'. Relatively abundant and pollinated by birds and insects, this perennial (short-lived) herb grows with full sun exposure.

Physical Description

- Bud: 1"; cap covers petals
- Flowers: four 2" petals (smaller in late spring); satiny; numerous stamens and one pistil; bright orange (late-spring varieties may have yellow flowers)
- Leaves: dissected into narrow segments
- Pod: 3"-5"; contains many seeds; will split open to release them
- Root: Taproot
- Seed: 1.5 mm – 1.8mm wide, elliptical, ridged, brown to black

Garden Tips/Extra Facts:

From 1' to 2' tall, and 2' to 3' wide. The juice of the California Poppy was used by Indians to relieve toothache pains. It has been found to be toxic on occasion. It is the official flower of California. The petals fold in the evening. When mature, the seed vessel opens with a pop and throws the seed some distance. The Spanish Californians made a hair dressing by frying the flowers in olive oil and adding perfume.



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