



Know What You Grow!



California Poppy

Scientific Name:
Eschscholzia californica

Varieties:

E. California (color ranges from yellow to orange). There are also other varieties such as *E. californica* 'Red Chief'; *E. californica* 'Sundew'; *E. californica* 'Thai Silk Rose Bush'; and *E. californica* 'Thai Silk Apricot Rose Bush'.

Diseases: Powdery mildew

[Powdery Mildew on Ornamentals Management Guidelines--UC IPM \(ucanr.edu\)](#)

Growing Information

Annual/Perennial

Can either be a perennial, growing from the previous year's root base, or an annual direct from seed.

Ideal Planting Window

Sow in fall in mild-winter areas, in spring in colder regions. The prime growing season is from February through September.

Growing Guidance

Broadcast on cultivated, well-drained soil; if rain is absent, water to keep ground moist until seeds germinate. For large-scale sowing, use 3-4 lbs. of seeds per acre.

Sunset New Western Garden Book, 2009 Edition

Further Information:

[UC Marin Master Gardeners Plant Guide](#)



Fun Flower Facts

- Other names for the California poppy are Golden Poppy, California Sunlight and Cup of Gold.
- This flower will put on a nonstop show of bright yellow to orange color in late spring and early summer.
- The California Poppy is the state flower of California.
- California native people used the poppy plant as a food, oil, and a medical remedy. Some used the plant's pollen as a facial covering or cosmetic.
- The early Spanish settlers called the golden poppy *dormidera*, "the drowsy one," because at night and during overcast, windy and rainy days, the flower stays closed with its petals tightly wrapped.

Photos: <https://ucanr.edu/repository>
Creative Commons

Additional Resource:

Sunset New Western Garden Book, 2009 Edition
Golden Poppies of California, George D. Lepp, 2004

Contact Information



RIVERSIDE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

EMAIL: anrmgriverside@ucanr.edu

WEBSITE: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/RiversideMG/>

Pollinators/Beneficial Insects/Fauna

You might see a profusion of small insects from beetles to tiny bees harvesting the pollen and caterpillars eating the satin petals.

You also might see ground squirrels, rabbits, coyotes, deer, foxes, and a diverse group of birds living in the open grasslands that the poppies prefer.

The California poppy produces no nectar. Pollination is carried out mainly by bees and beetles that are attracted by the profusion of fragrant pollen.



Suggested Use

Use for naturalizing on sunny hillsides; along drives; or in dry fields, vacant lots, parking strips or country gardens.

Companion Plantings

Gilia capitata (globe gillia); *Nemophila menziesii* (baby blue eyes), *Layia platyglossa* (tiny tips); and various colors of annual *microcarpus* var. *densiflorus* (lupine),

Activities

- Celebrate California Poppy Day (April 6) by planting California poppy seeds in your flower garden; enjoying pictures and information about them; or holding teaching sessions and talks to children or groups.
- Sing the California Poppy Song. Music and words at [California Poppy song \(cpp.edu\)](http://CaliforniaPoppySong.com).