



Papaver Orientale

Perennial in Zones 3-7. Can be grown in some cooler Zone 8 climates. These poppies require a period of cold in order to return and bloom each spring.

Planting Season

These seeds can be planted in early fall, where they will go dormant and return in spring, or planted in spring—though blooms will not appear until the following year. If temperatures are consistently above 55°F, seeds can be planted immediately to get a head start on spring. If temperatures are below 55°F, seeds can be stored until spring (see storage directions below) or planted in winter, where they will emerge in spring when temperatures are optimal.

Site Selection and Planting

Choose a site that receives morning sun and has good drainage. Oriental poppies do not tolerate wet conditions. If clay is present in the soil, amend it with organic compost. Clear the area of weeds and water thoroughly before planting so seeds are not displaced by heavy watering afterward.

Mix seeds with sand for more even distribution. Scatter seeds over the prepared bed and lightly rake them in. Water with a hose on the mist setting to avoid dislodging seeds and concentrating them in one area. Keep soil moist but not wet. Seeds typically sprout within two weeks. If seedlings emerge too close together, thin them to at least 6 inches apart.

Continue watering as needed until foliage begins to decline as temperatures approach freezing. Mulch around the plants at this time.

Seasonal Growth Cycle

Plants will re-emerge in spring when temperatures reach approximately 55°F. Growth continues until around June or July, when warmer temperatures trigger dormancy. Foliage will die back and become unsightly during this period—many gardeners plant shorter flowers in front of poppies to provide cover.

Once plants begin to decline in summer, stop watering. The plants are entering dormancy, and continued watering will damage the roots. Allow seed pods to dry on the plants and release seeds for natural propagation, or collect seeds for planting in other areas.

After seeding is complete and plants have turned brown, trim the foliage, leaving the root ball to go dormant. Plants will return in fall, grow until winter, and repeat the cycle. In certain climates, poppies may remain evergreen—if so, leave them undisturbed. Each season, plants become larger and blooms more profuse.



Cold Stratification Note

Poppy seeds benefit from a period of cold to break dormancy and increase germination. Seeds shipped by Seedcult have already undergone cold stratification in storage, but this information is useful for future plantings from collected seeds.

Seed Storage Guidelines

For delayed planting, proper storage ensures seed viability. Seeds require cool, dark, and dry conditions. Retain seeds in the food-grade plastic bag provided, place the bag inside a sealed glass jar, and cover with an opaque bag or material to block light. Ideal storage locations include basements or refrigerators. Refrigeration is essential for certain species, including poppies. Under proper conditions, most seeds remain viable for 1-5 years, depending on species.

Satisfaction Guarantee

Seedcult guarantees all seeds, bulbs, and bare root plants to provide satisfactory yields. Customers who experience germination issues or are dissatisfied for any reason are encouraged to contact Seedcult prior to leaving a review. Replacement, refund, or expert guidance will be provided. Customer satisfaction and plant success are core priorities.

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Seedcult maintains an unwavering commitment to non-GMO seeds. This principle was established at our founding and remains embedded in the DNA of our company charter. It is a commitment from which we will never deviate.

