



# Papaver Orientale

Perennial zones 3-7. Can be grown in some "cool 8 zones." These require a period of cold, in order to return and bloom every spring.

These can be planted in either early fall where they will go dormant and return in spring or in spring, but you will not see blooms until the following spring. If it is early enough in the season (that is, if temperatures are consistently above 55 degrees), you can plant them now to get a head start on spring. If temperatures are below, this, you can store them until spring (see storage directions at the end of the letter,) or you can plant them in winter, and they will emerge in spring, when temperatures are just right.

Choose a site that receives preferably morning sun and is well draining. Oriental poppies detest wet feet. If there is clay in your soil, amend it with organic compost. Clear an area of weeds and water it so that seeds are not washed all over by watering heavily after. Mix the seeds with sand for a more even distribution. Scatter the seeds over the prepared bed and lightly rake them in. Water the soil with a hose on the mist setting so that the seeds are not dislodged and concentrated in one area. Keep the soil moist but not wet. The seeds will sprout in about 2 weeks. If some of the plants emerge too close together, thin them so that they are at least 6 inches apart. Continue to water them as needed until the foliage starts to decline as the temperatures drop closer to freezing. Mulch the area around the plants at this time.

The plants will re-emerge in spring when temperatures reach about 55 degrees. They will grow until around June or July, when it gets too warm for them. They will die back and look rather unsightly, so most people plant other shorter flowers in front of them. Once they start to decline in the summer, stop watering them. They are just going dormant and trying to keep them going by watering will kill the roots. Allow the seed pods to dry on the plants and release seeds for even more poppies if desired, or you can collect the seeds and plant them in another area. After seeding and when plants are brown (poppies will remain evergreen in



certain climates, if they do, just leave them be, but I think your winters are too cold so they will likely go completely dormant), trim the foliage, leaving the root ball to go dormant again and return in fall where they will grow until winter and start the process over again. Each season, the plants get larger and the blooms get more profuse.

If you decide to wait to plant these or most any other seeds, you can keep them in the baggie I sent them in (which is food grade), place that in a mason jar and then a paper bag to block light and place them in your refrigerator. They will keep from 2-5 years this way. These can actually benefit from a period of cold to break dormancy and increase germination. I have already done this, as I keep them in cold storage, but this is good to know for future plantings.

#### A NOTE ON SEED STORAGE IF YOU ARE NOT PLANTING RIGHT AWAY:

The key for seed storage is cool, dark and dry. If your temperatures are not quite right for planting, you can keep the seeds viable by keeping them in the food-grade plastic bag they were shipped in. The bag should then be placed in a sealed mason jar, then covered with a paper bag to block light. A basement would be an ideal storage area, or alternatively a refrigerator (this is a must for poppies), until you are ready to plant. This can be done with most all seeds and will keep them viable for 1-5 years depending on the species.

My seeds, bulbs and bare root plants are guaranteed to provide you with a decent yield. If you are dissatisfied with your order for any reason or the seeds don't sprout, please message me before leaving a review and I will provide advice, replace or refund. I truly care about my customers and my plants!

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Happy Planting!

Kimberly

