



Photo: Al Braden

Common Names:

California Poppy,
Desert Trumpet

Plant Type: Self-seeding annual**Requirements:** Full Sun**Height:** 1-1.5 ft**Bloom Time:** June-July**Hardiness Zones:**

8-10; will grow as an annual in zones 5-10

Eschscholzia californica

Eschscholzia californica is a plant in the Poppy family (Papaveraceae). It is native to the Western United States, and will readily grow on hillsides, roads, and open areas from southern Washington to Northern Mexico. Its much-easier-to-pronounce common name is the California poppy, and it is the state flower of California.

California poppy is only hardy in zones 8-10, but in zones with cold winters, it is grown as a self-seeding annual. The plant has a loose, mounded habit with delicate looking blue-green leaves. The most common flower color is orange, though some cultivars have been bred with white, pink, or lilac-colored flowers. The cheerful blooms close at night, or on particularly cloudy days. California poppies attract bees and other pollen-loving insects. In its native range it is mainly pollinated by beetles.

California poppy grows in full sun and well-drained soil. It will tolerate poor soils and is relatively drought tolerant. The best way to grow California poppy is from seed. Direct sow the seeds on top of the soil and barely cover them. Once established, California poppy will happily re-seed for many years. Plants go somewhat dormant in heat of summer and tend to look brown and raggedy. Cut them back to clean up the plant and promote a second flush of blooms when the weather cools.

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/eschscholziacalifornica>

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