



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

ORIENTAL POPPY CARE

LIGHT

Oriental poppies (*Papaver orientale*) need full sun for strong flowering. Their large blooms stand above coarse, hairy leaves in late spring or early summer. Choose a permanent border position with space for the cultivar. Shelter from strong winds helps protect the delicate petals.

WATER

Water deeply at planting and keep new roots moderately moist while establishing. During active growth, water in dry weather and allow excess water to drain. After flowering, foliage often dies back into summer dormancy. Do not try to reverse normal dormancy with repeated soaking.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in fertile, very well-drained soil, especially where winters are wet. Keep the crown clear of heavy mulch. Mark the location so the dormant root is not dug up or planted over. Established fleshy taproots are easily damaged and dislike unnecessary disturbance.

FEEDING

Feed modestly in spring if soil is poor, following label directions. Avoid rich, repeated nitrogen applications that encourage leafy growth. Do not fertilize a dormant plant to force summer foliage. Correct poor drainage before treating weak growth as a feeding problem.

SEASONAL CARE

Cut finished flower stems back and remove foliage as it yellows and dies. Leave any healthy new basal leaves that return later in the season, including through winter. Support taller flower stems if necessary. Avoid routine division; if moving is essential, handle the deep roots carefully.

HELPFUL TIPS

Summer disappearance is normal for Oriental poppies and does not by itself mean the plant has died. Nearby later-growing perennials can soften the gap without covering the crown. This guide differs from Iceland and Spanish poppy care. Watch for aphids, mildew and wilts, and wear gloves when handling sap.