SPANISH POPPY CARE

LIGHT

Spanish poppy (Papaver rupifragum), including Double Tangerine Gem, grows in full sun. Orange flowers stand above a low clump of lobed leaves during summer. Choose a sunny border edge or container where surrounding plants will not shade the foliage or crowd the flower stems.

WATER

Water thoroughly after planting and maintain moderate moisture until roots establish. Thereafter, water during extended dry spells, allowing excess water to drain between soakings. Avoid constant saturation. Containers need closer checking in hot or windy weather, even when established garden plants need little attention.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in deep, fertile, well-drained soil. Keep heavy mulch away from the low crown. Use a freely draining potting mix in containers and never block drainage holes. Winter-wet ground can shorten plant life, so improve the planting site before installing a young plant.

FEEDING

Feed modestly in spring where needed, following fertilizer directions. In fertile garden soil, repeated applications may be unnecessary. Container plants may benefit from occasional light feeding during growth. Avoid excessive nitrogen, which can encourage soft growth without improving the flower display.

SEASONAL CARE

Remove finished flowers for a tidy display and to limit seed, or leave selected heads if self-sowing is desired. Keep healthy leaves while green and remove dead growth as needed. Renew declining clumps from suitable seedlings or new plants rather than assuming every original plant will persist indefinitely.

HELPFUL TIPS

Spanish poppy can be short-lived and may self-seed; remove unwanted seedlings promptly. Check the cultivar label for winter hardiness at your Maine site, especially in exposed pots. This guide differs from Oriental-poppy summer dormancy and Iceland-poppy cool-season care. Watch for aphids, mildew and wilts; wear gloves when handling sap.