

ALLISON WALL, 3/21/23

PAPAVERACEAE

pəˌpavəˈrāsē, ē

A Golden Bloom for the Golden State



California poppy

PAPAVERACEAE

- A family of flowering plants that include herbaceous, woody shrubs and tropical trees
- Informally known as the “poppy family”
- *Eschscholzia californica* is the state flower, better known as the “California Poppy”
- Became the state flower officially in 1903, and was presented as “A golden bloom for the Golden State”

PAPAVERACEAE - COMMON TRAITS

- Nodding bud on solitary stalks
- Dissected leaves and milky sap
- 4 - 6 petals
- Numerous stamens surrounding the ovary
- Papery blooms and lacy leaves
- Seeds easily spread by wind and birds



Poppy Diagram

PAPAVERACEAE COLORS & RARE SPECIES

- Eye-popping colors: deep crimson, coral, golden yellow, pink, lavender, white and more
- Blankets parts of California with a deep golden orange after winter rains
- Rare species, *Papaver californicum*, is a “fire follower” and signaled to germinate by smoke
- Fire poppies provide beautiful color and protect slopes with vegetative cover



Papaver californicum

PAPAVERACEAE

DICOT OR MONOCOT?

- More than one seed-leaf
- Petal count divisible for 4 or 5
- Woody stalks
- Branched or web-like vein pattern in leaves
- VERDICT: DICOT



Matilija Poppy, San Diego Zoo

PAPAVERACEAE

GROWING CONDITIONS

- Well drained soil
- Full sun, and also likes some afternoon shade in very hot regions
- Susceptible to moisture related disease, such as powdery mildew and root rot
- Pests include sap seeking insects like aphids and thrips - can treat by spraying water and/or insecticidal soaps and encouraging natural predators



Bud to Blossom within 90 Days

PAPAVERACEAE - USES

- Used in baking, salad dressings and more
- Poppy seeds do not contain opium, but contaminated seeds can have opium on the seed coat, which comes from the pod
- The milky sap contains opium alkaloids and the *Papaver somniferum* is mainly used for schedule II opioid analgesics, teas, and other drugs to produce psychoactive effects
- Red poppies in particular are a symbol of eternal sleep



Deadly Poppy Field - Wizard of Oz

PAPAVERACEAE - IN FLANDERS' FIELD

- “In Flanders’ Field” is a poem written by Lt. Col. John McCrae
- It represents the voices of the fallen soldiers buried beneath the poppy fields from WWI
- It is regularly read as part of military remembrance ceremonies
- Poppies are a symbol of both eternal sleep and new life



In Flanders' Field

PAPAVERACEAE - FUN FACT!

Poppies are in the order Ranunculales, which is the buttercup order of flowering plants.



California poppy

Golden blooms for the Golden State are a reminder of limitless possibilities.