

# Poppy seed planting instructions

## Planting Seedling in Pot

### Sun and soil:

- Use well-drained, lean to average soil (sandy or gritty is fine; avoid heavy, soggy clay).
- Pick a spot with full sun (at least 6 hours of direct light).

### Seed spacing:

- scatter seeds about 2-4 inches apart.

### Sowing depth:

- Poppy seeds need light to germinate, so cover them very shallowly just press them into the surface.

Water and encourage germination:

1. After sowing, gently water with a fine-spray nozzle ensuring the soil is moist but not soggy.
2. Keep the surface consistently moist until germination, which usually takes 10–21 days, depending on temperature.

Thin seedlings

1. Once seedlings reach about 1–2 inches tall, thin so plants stand 6–8 inches apart for looser clumps, or 8–12 inches for fuller plants.

READY to transport this seedling into the ground at your home?

### Prepare the planting area

1. Clear weeds, rocks, and large debris from the bed.
2. Loosen the top 4–6 inches of soil
3. If your soil is very heavy, mix in a thin layer (1–2 inches) of compost or pumice to improve drainage avoid rich fertilizer.

### Water and fertilizer

1. Young seedlings: Water regularly so the top inch of soil stays slightly moist, but allow it to dry between waterings.
2. Established plants: Once mature, California poppies are drought-tolerant and prefer low-water, lean conditions. Water only during prolonged dry spells.
3. Fertilizer: Avoid rich fertilizer; they bloom best in low-fertility soil. Adding compost at planting is usually enough.

## Sun, spacing, and height

1. Ensure plants get full sun; in shade they become leggy and flower poorly.
2. Mature plants typically reach 4–12 inches tall, spreading by self-seeding and low-growing stems.
3. For a solid carpet effect, space rows or plants 6–12 inches apart depending on how dense you want the look.

## Deadheading and self-seeding

1. To encourage naturalization: Allow some flowers to dry and set seed; they will scatter and often return in the same bed or drift along pathways and borders.
1. Collect seed pods in late spring/early summer if you want to save seed for future plantings or for sharing.