Red Chief California Poppy

Eschscholzia californica 'Red Chief'



Red Chief California Poppy flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 14 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 8a

Description:

This unique selection of California poppy forms a ferny rosette of blue-green foliage, topped by flower stalks that produce bright red blooms, emerging for several weeks; cut down plants for reblooming flush; does well in poor, clay soils

Ornamental Features

Red Chief California Poppy has masses of beautiful red cup-shaped flowers with gold eyes at the ends of the stems from late spring to mid summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its attractive ferny leaves remain bluish-green in color with hints of silver throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Red Chief California Poppy is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting birds, bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Red Chief California Poppy is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Red Chief California Poppy will grow to be about 14 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 14 inches. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in poor soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selection of a native North American species.

Red Chief California Poppy is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.