PLANT FACT SHEET

Oreomecon nudicaulis (Linn.) Banfi, Bartolucci, J.-M,Tison & Galasso

GENUS *Oreomecon* **FAMILY** Papaveraceae

COMMON NAMES Arctic poppy, Alaskan Poppy, Icelandic Poppy, Iceland Poppy

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds

CAUTION: The leaves may be slightly toxic.
The leaves are cooked and eaten.
The seed is eaten raw or cooked.

DESCRIPTION

A perennial plant which grows 30-45 cm tall. It spreads to 25 cm across. It is best treated as a biennial plant. The leaves form rings or rosettes at the base. The leaves are 3-15 cm long. These are hairy and deeply divided. They are grey-green. The stems are long and slender and leafless. The buds at the top are plump, hairy and nodding. They open to bowl shaped flowers with four petals. They are 5-10 cm wide. The flowers have a slight scent. The flowers can be white, pink, orange or yellow.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows naturally in Northern sub-arctic regions. It grows on stony or gravelly soils. It prefers a well drained sandy soil in a sunny position. It can grow in partial shade. It cannot tolerate wet soils. It suits hardiness zones 2-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. They are best sown directly where they are to grow. The seeds are scattered and raked in lightly. Seedlings can be transplanted. Plants should be 15 cm apart. Plants can be grown by division if it is done with care. Root cuttings will grow.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is a short lived perennial often grown as an annual or biennial.

NOTES

There are 50-80 Papaver species.

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