PLANT FACT SHEET

Papaver rhoeas L.

GENUS *Papaver* **FAMILY** Papaveraceae

COMMON NAMES Shirley Poppies, Corn poppy

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Leaves, Stems, Root, Tuber, Flowers, Flowers - tea, Oil

The seed is eaten raw or cooked. They can be used in stews. They are used in caked, breads and rolls.
The young leaves are eaten raw or cooked. They are used in soups. The dried leaves are eaten with honey.
An edible oil is obtained from the seed.
A syrup can be prepared from the scarlet flower petals. The flowers are chewed and sucked.
A red dye from the petals is used to flavour wine.

DESCRIPTION

An annual plant which grows up to 60 cm high. It is 15 cm across. The leaf shape and flower colour can vary. The leaves are soft and hairy and deeply divided. The leaves are 5-20 cm long. The leaves are green, not blue-green. The flowers occur singly in the axils of leaves. The flowers are 6-10 cm across. The flower petals have a dark spot at the base. The seed capsules are 0.8-1.5 cm wide. They are smooth.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It does not do well on acid soils. It prefers a well drained sandy soil in a sunny position. It can grow in arid places. It Argentina it grows from sea level to 900 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 5-9. Tasmania Herbarium.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. They are planted where they are to grow. The fine seed are scattered over the soil surface. Plants should be spaced 15-20 cm apart.

NOTES

There are 70 Papaver species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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