



## Uncanoonuc Mt. Perennials

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### Oriental Poppies

Select a site in full sun or very light shade with good soil drainage--not a boggy spot.

Average garden soil is fine; sandy loam is best. If your soil is very sandy or very heavy, work in organic matter (peat moss, rotted manure or compost).

Poppies prefer soil that is slightly acidic. If your soil is very acidic, lime the plants about every three years. Wood ashes work. Do not lime every year.

Space plants about 18" apart. Set the crown of the plant 1-2" below soil surface. For spring or summer planting, set at the same depth they were grown in the pot.

Fertilize each April with 5-10-5 or 10-10-10. **Do not over fertilize.**

Remember the plants go dormant (foliage dies to the ground) after their June bloom. Mask the gap in your border by using poppies near other plants like baby's breath, daylilies, or annuals. The rosette of foliage that appears in the fall will winter over.

**Keep your new transplants well watered for several weeks.** A winter mulch (applied over the plants after the ground has frozen) may be helpful the first year.

Poppies may be divided to propagate them, but it is not necessary. If you do move an established plant, expect new plants to sprout at the old location; they grow from pieces of root left in the ground. Late August or early September is a good time to divide poppies.

