



Common Name: California poppy

Scientific Name: *Eschscholzia californica*

Plant Family: Papaveraceae

Identifying Characteristics:

Size: Flowering stems may be erect or spreading, 5 – 60 cm (2 to 24 in) long

Leaves: Leaves are linear to dissected, concentrated at the base of flowering stems. If the leaves are subdivided, the divisions can be round-tipped to pointy-tipped.

Flowers: Flowers open from erect and long-pointed buds enclosed within two sepals. When the flowers open, they reveal four petals that may be yellow to light orange to dark orange. The petals are 20 – 60 mm (0.75 to 2.5 in) long, and you may see orange spots at the base of yellow flowers. When the petals wither and drop, they leave a crown-like rim around the base of the developing fruits. The flowers then develop into dry, elongated fruits 3 to 9 cm (1.25 to 3.75 in) long, which split open from the base to release the feathery seeds.

Habitat: Grassy, open areas and slopes, from 0 – 2000 m (0 to 6500 ft); can be found from Coastal dunes to foothills and mountains.

Bloom time: February - September

Did you know? An entire song has been written about California poppies. Based on the words to this song, can you imagine what the flowers do at night?
*Pretty poppies golden, In thy yellow cup
Sunbeams bright, lend their light, Honey bees doth sup
In thy bed so dainty, Soothe to slumbers deep,
Poppies, golden poppies, Flowers fair and sweet,
Pretty poppies golden bright, good night, good night,
Nod your little golden heads, good night, good night.*

(Words by Mary A. Lombard, music by Leo Bruck wrote the music; Re-printed by E. E. Smith in *The Golden Poppy*)



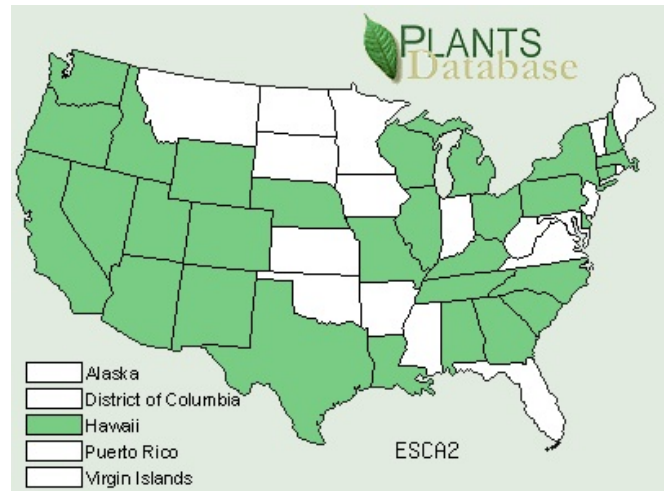
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Phenological observation:
First Flower

Distribution Area:



Map courtesy of USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database (plants.usda.gov)