

POPPY PROTOCOL

Papaver somniferum

Planting Seed

1. Fill 4.5” Kord Square Pots with *Berger 35% Bark*. Tap the pot to settle the media, and place them into the 15 count holding trays. Do not compact the media as this can limit oxygen exchange within the root zone. *1 Gallon pots may be used when growing for yield.*
2. Water each pot using the spray setting, and thoroughly saturate the media.
3. Plant 2-3 seeds on top of the media per pot. *Poppies do not transplant well.*
4. Add a little bit of MM 360 to the pot – just enough to cover the seeds – and lightly saturate the added media.
5. Place trays of plants in the “New Plantings” multi-user, cool weather house.
6. After germination, thin plants to one-per-pot.
7. As the plants grow, the pots will need to be spaced out to every-other cell in the holding tray. *This will limit the spread of insects and fungal diseases.*

Watering/Fertilizing

1. 4.5” Kord pots will be top watered, and the plants are checked twice a day for watering needs.
2. The media should be allowed to dry out between waterings, but the plants should not reach wilt point.
3. Current fertilizer regimen is Monday, Wednesday, Friday with Jack’s 15-16-17 @ an E.C. of 1.0 and a pH of 6.0-6.5. As the plants begin to flower vigorously, supplemental fertilizer may be needed to achieve high nutrient demands.
4. Regular watering will continue until plants begin to senesce or until the researcher has no further need.

Pest Management

- The most common pests found on *Papaver* are the Two-Spotted Spider Mite (*Tetranychus urticae*), Western Flower Thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*), and powdery mildew (*Erysiphe spp.*).
- Populations of spider mites generally do not establish well in the cool weather houses, and as such, are fairly easy to control with beneficial insects.
- Thrips are controlled through the use of beneficial insects and the occasional pesticide spray when populations reach high levels.
- Powdery mildew will need to be treated with fungicidal sprays.

Typical Growing Conditions:

Temp: 21°C/20°C (day/night)

Relative Humidity: 50%

Light: 300 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2/\text{s}$

Day Length: 16 hours