
Papaver Alboroseum
Portage Poppy

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Hort 5051

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Taxonomy

- Scientific Name:
Papaver alboroseum
- Synonyms: None
- Common Names:
Portage Poppy, Pale
Poppy, Pink Poppy
- Family:
Papaveraceae



Geographic Distribution



- Continents: North America
- Countries: US, Canada, Russia
- States/Prov/Regions: Alaska, Yukon Territory, British Columbia, Russian Pacific Islands
- Altitude: 0-6500 ft
- General Climate: Tundra
- Invasiveness: Has not exhibited a tendency to be invasive

Native Habitat

- Rocky tundra on ridges and mountain summits
- Ash and cinder slopes
- Glacial outwash and river flood plains that are abundant in gravel and sand
- Especially abundant in the gravel at the base of the Portage Glacier near Anchorage, AK

Taxonomic Description

- Habit: Cespitose, with white to pink flowers and gray-green pubescent foliage
- Life Cycle: Perennial
- Root System: Tap Root
- Underground Storage Organs: None
- Bloom Season: June to August in Alaska

Taxonomic Description

- Leaves:
 - up to 4 cm long with petioles that roughly half the length of the leaf.
 - Broadly lanceolate, 1-2 lobes with up to 2 pairs of primary lateral lobes that can be obovate to strap shaped. Leaf margins are toothed



Taxonomic Description



- Flowers:
 - Leafless flower stalks that grow from the ground
 - Decumbent, bowed flowers that are 2.5 cm in diameter
 - Flowers tend to be white to rose in color with yellow basal spots on the petals
 - Hermaphroditic flowers with yellow anthers and 5-7 stigmas
 - Entire flower is covered in strigose white trichomes
 - Seed capsules are subglobose to ellipsoid and up to 1.3 cm long

Propagation

- By Seed
- Seeds/Flower: Variable
- Dormancy: No known dormancy requirements

Crop Ideotype

- Large, showy flowers that bloom all summer
- A plant that can be forced for Valentine's Day
- A short germination period
- A relatively quick production cycle

Market Niche

- Target Sales Date: Spring Garden Sales
- Potential Holidays for this product: Mother's Day, Valentine's Day
- Programmability: could be done, but would require lots of extra lighting in the winter months
- Competitor Crops: poppies already in cultivation, flowering plants for Zones 1-3
- Major crop: Probably not. It will have good potential in northern climates, where gardeners are looking for something new that flowers for their gardens.
- Initial Limitations/Problems: not a lot of information about Portage Poppy, so any initial production would be experimental.
- Already identifiable to consumers and growers: No
- How soon could it be available: at least 10 years to identify breeding that needs to be done, and to determine the requirements for an efficient production schedule

Anticipated Cultural Requirements

- Winter Hardiness (USDA Zones): 1-6
- Heat/Drought Tolerance: AHS Heat Zone 1
- Temperature (Day/Night): 15-20°C Day temperatures, 10-15°C Night temps – just a guess based on the geographic distribution of the plant.
- Light: unknown, but probably requires long days for flowering, and good light quality bases on the geographic distribution
- Nutrition: Unknown
- Soil: well drained, sandy or gravel, but also fertile soils like the ash and cinder slopes in Alaska
- PGR's: unknown
- Container size: sow in 288s, transplant up to a 4" pot for sale
- Diseases (resistance/susceptibility): Unknown
- Fungicides/Insecticides: Unknown

Proposed Production Schedule

- Estimated Weeks
 - Sow to Germ: 2 weeks
 - Germ to FBI: unknown – mine have not initiated buds yet
 - FBI to FBD: unknown
 - FBD to Ship: unknown
- Special Treatments: None known, but probably a long day treatment
- Target Sales Date: late April to early July for Spring garden sales



Needs Assessment for Genetic Improvement

- More research needs to be done on photoperiod requirements, possible PGR need or use, fertility requirements, and pests and diseases.
- Breeding needs to be done to shorten production time.
- Research should also be done on the invasive potential of this plant once it is removed from its native habitat.

Sources

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