

Botanical Name: Romneya coulteri

Common Name: Matilija poppy

Type of Plant: dicot; shrub Character semi-deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape clumping habit of many erect stems, forms a broadly rounded canopy--stems die back close to ground in winter in colder habitats--large, loose and invasive

Height 3-6' (10') Spread 6-15' Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun

Soil tolerates most except poorly drained

Hardiness hardy (zones 5-10, 12-24); best in warm locations

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, ovate with irregular clefts, lobes pointed-leaves 3-6" long, blue/gray/green, mostly 3-5 lobed

Flowers spectacularly large, 6-9" wide, 5-6 white petals and central cluster of yellow stamens--solitary, terminal axillary--May-July

Fruit 1" long capsule

Propagation: seed, root cuttings (winter-Dec.)

Usage: large filler/background for flower display; slopes, erosion control; can send out long runners and be invasive if unchecked

Landscape Care:

Watering occasionally deep soak; needs virtually no summer watering after established

Fertilizing none

Pruning cut back old stems close to ground during winter

Pests/Diseases relatively free; root rot where drainage is poor

Special Conditions best planted in fall/winter; spring plantings may rot

Origin: Southern Calif./ Baja Family: Papaveraceae