

# Wood Poppy

# *Stylophorum diphyllum*



**Plant Type:** Native Perennial Wildflower  
**Sun Exposure:** Part Sun, Shade  
**Season of Interest:** Spring  
**Bloom Time:** Spring  
**Bloom Color:** Bright Yellow  
**Height:** 10 to 14 in.  
**Spread:** 9 to 12 in.  
**Spacing:** 12 in.  
**Water Needs:** Average  
**Maintenance:** Deadhead  
**Soil Type:** Clay, Loam, Sandy  
**Soil pH:** Acidic, Neutral  
**Soil Drainage:** Well drained  
**Pests:** None  
**Diseases:** None  
**Wildlife:** Bees

**Description:** The Wood Poppy, also known as the Celandine Poppy, is a long-lived herbaceous perennial wildflower native to eastern North America. It loves plenty of shade and moisture and would be an ideal option for a moist woodland garden or rain garden. It blooms early in the year, welcoming spring with its cheerful, pure yellow flowers. Use this shade plant as a spring-blooming companion to your other woodland perennials. It can be easily incorporated into colorful arrangements of other wildflowers, ferns, and foliage plants. Although it can grow into dense colonies, these colonies are rare and localized. Under the right conditions, these plants will spread readily by self-seeding. Eventually, they will form vast colonies on the forest floor. As the days get warmer and the soil dries out, they go dormant until the following winter and spring. The bright yellow flowers appear with bristly stems and fuzzy seed pods. They have deeply cut, wavy-edged, geranium-like leaves that emerge in late winter or early spring. Shortly after leaf-out, the flowers bloom in mid to late spring. Each flower is between one and three inches across and typically has four petals. The flowers are entirely bright yellow and very showy. The flowers attract pollinators, and pollinated flowers develop showy seed pods. For more information see: [plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/Stylophorum-diphyllum](http://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/Stylophorum-diphyllum).



**Care and Growing Tips:** Wood Poppies are easy to grow given a mild climate with plenty of shade and moist soil. Partial to full shade is best, including dappled sunlight, as long as your plants are not in any harsh, direct afternoon sunlight. These plants will do very well with less than two hours of sunlight each day. They also need moist, well-drained soil and supplemental water during drought to avoid premature dormancy. The soil around your wood poppies should be organically rich, moist, and fertile. These plants will tolerate a variety of soil types as long as the soil stays moist. The soil pH should be slightly acidic to neutral. These plants perform well in USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 4-9. They withstand freezing temperatures just fine but do not like arid dry conditions. Fertilization is unnecessary if the soil is rich in organic matter. Regularly deadhead plants to prevent self-seeding and prolong their blooming season. Mulching around your plants will help preserve soil moisture and also deter weeds.