

Know Your Poppies

Poppies that contain alkaloids are a prohibited plant in Tasmania because they are toxic - *it is an offence to grow or possess them without a licence*.

Poppies are found everywhere in Tasmania, including as ornamental plants, weeds and cut flowers. They are also grown under licence to produce alkaloids for use in pharmaceutical products.

It is important to know the difference between prohibited poppies and those that can be grown or imported legally. The following poppies are prohibited plants in Tasmania:

ANNUALS

Alkaloid Poppy / *Papaver somniferum*

Yellow-white milky sap; star-shaped stigmas extending over the top of the capsules; flowers are large and showy; leaves are waxy-blue, and the upper leaves with bases that clasp the stem. This variety is grown commercially in Tasmania for alkaloid production.

PROHIBITED



BASAL LEAVES	Few hairs on upper and lower surface with toothed margins
STEM LEAVES	8-15 cm long, hairless and with toothed margins
STEMS	Hairless or with few hairs
PLANT HEIGHT	Up to 1.5 m tall
BUDS	Oval, without basal bracts
FLOWERS	4 petals, pale pink to purple with darker basal blotch
CAPSULES	2-4 cm diameter spherical with a flat cap

Peony Poppy / *Papaver paeoniflorum* (cultivar of *Papaver somniferum*)

Plants appear as per the alkaloid poppy but with double 'peony-like' flowers.

PROHIBITED



BASAL LEAVES	Few hairs on upper and lower surface with toothed margins
STEM LEAVES	8-15 cm long, hairless and with toothed margins
STEMS	Hairless or with few hairs
PLANT HEIGHT	Up to 1.5 m tall
BUDS	Oval, without basal bracts
FLOWERS	Numerous petals, a range of colours is encountered from deep purple through to various shades of pink, red and white
CAPSULES	2-4 cm diameter spherical with a flat cap

PERENNIAL

Persian Poppy / *Papaver bracteatum*

PROHIBITED



BASAL LEAVES	Up to 45 cm long, deeply divided and toothed with numerous white bristles
STEM LEAVES	As per basal leaves but smaller
STEMS	Up to 15 flowering stems covered with dense white bristles
PLANT HEIGHT	Up to 1 m tall
BUDS	Held erect, oblong with prominent leaf-like bracts at the base
FLOWERS	Numerous petals, a range of colours is encountered from deep purple through to various shades of pink, red and white
CAPSULES	3-4 cm long with concave convex cap and persistent leaf-like bracts

Any *Papaver somniferum* seed that has been dried, preserved or otherwise processed for the purpose of propagation is declared to be prohibited matter for the purposes of the *Biosecurity Act 2019*.

Ornamental Poppies:

Annual poppies including Field, Shirley and Flanders poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) can be grown and possessed in Tasmania.

Perennial species including the Oriental poppy (*Papaver orientale*), the Pseudo-oriental poppy (*Papaver pseudo-orientale*) and the common Iceland poppy (*Papaver nudicaule*) are also legal.

Three weed species of poppies also occur in Tasmania: the Long-headed poppy (*Papaver dubium*), the Rough poppy (*Papaver hybridum*), and the Pale poppy (*Papaver argemone*).

If you grow or possess poppies, it is your responsibility to ensure that they are species that is legal to be grown without a licence in Tasmania.

For more information about poppy identification or poppies you can legally grow contact the Regulated Crops Branch ph 1300 368 550 or email poppies@nre.tas.gov.au