Mojave Prickly Poppy

Argemone corymbosa



Mojave Prickly Poppy flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 30 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 7

Other Names: Pricklypoppy

Description:

This native, southwest desert member of the poppy family produces fragrant, radiant white blooms with yellow centers in spring, over very spiny, lobed foliage; an interesting addition to the dry garden, borders or containers

Ornamental Features

Mojave Prickly Poppy features bold fragrant white round flowers with yellow centers at the ends of the stems from early to mid spring. Its spiny lobed leaves remain grayish green in color with hints of bluish-green throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Mojave Prickly Poppy is an open herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spiny

Mojave Prickly Poppy is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Mojave Prickly Poppy will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 inches. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen! As this plant tends to go dormant in summer, it is best interplanted with late-season bloomers to hide the dying foliage.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America..

Mojave Prickly Poppy is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.