



ICELANDIC POPPIES (BIANCHERI COLIBRI® SELECTION)



ROSA INTENSO

GIALLO

ARANCIO

ROSA CHIARO

BIANCO

Biancheri Creation's Colibri® Poppies are grown for their very large tissue-paper like flowers. These Papaver Nudicaule/Icelandic Poppies are not to be confused with Papaver somniferous (Opium Poppies - grown for green pods). Iceland poppies thrive in Zones 2-10. The Biancheri's Colibri® varieties are available in 5 colors (seed and plugs are sold in separate colors or mixes) and can be grown in greenhouse, tunnel, shade house or open field. Sow seeds in plugs (for 440 cell trays 1 seed per cell, 160 holes 2 seeds per cell) early spring in zones 2-7. Sow in late summer or fall in zones 8-10 for spring blooms. Barely cover the seed with a fine dusting of vermiculite or sand.



Ideal germination temperature is between 15 – 18c (62 and 68F). Plugs should remain in humid room for 4-5 days for germination. Following the germination, the plant is very sensitive to excess humidity and therefore avoid overhead irrigation (rather use ebb and flow irrigation / water from the bottom up is recommended). Young plants are ready for transplant after about 25 to 30 days. Poppies require calcium and phosphor, fertilizer ratio 1:1,5:5. Well drained soil is very important.

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Starting poppy seed to germinate is not very easy and the seeds are tiny. Therefore, **starting in the fall of 2016, Colibri Poppies will also be available in 128 cell plugs.** Packed in insulated boxes with 3 individual or mixes colored trays.

Poppy plugs are to be spaced 9 to 12" apart in raised beds. Avoid breaking any roots in the process. Use drip irrigation only to avoid plant rot. Keep soil moist but not wet. Watch for slugs/snails and maintain low humidity by providing plenty of airflow. Grow as cool as possible.

The perfect stage to pick Poppies is when flowers are cracking. Ship with shell for easy transport and to avoid damaging the flowers. Once the flowers open they are much more difficult to handle and process.

To ensure the longest vase life, place the freshly picked Icelandic Poppies in a clean bucket with clean water and a Chrysal Bulb T-Bag. After processing/bunching and re-cutting the poppy flowers, place flowers in a new, clean bucket of water with a new Bulb T-Bag.



Another option is to sear/singe or dip (in boiling water) the bottom 2" of the stems for about 10 seconds or until you notice the stem changing in color and consistency. Then store in clean water with flower food in cooler.

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