

Blue Himalayan Poppies (Meconopsis)

Culture for blue poppies is different than for oriental poppies. Blue poppies may be temperamental and short-lived, but well worth the extra effort.

Where – Cool, moist, shady areas.

Soil – Loose, well-drained, hummus rich, acid soil.

How – Can usually be planted at any time of the year when the soil can be properly worked.

- ◆ Dig a hole about twice as large as the root ball. Enhance soil by mixing compost, bark, peat moss, oak leaves, or other acidic organic matter with native soil.
- ◆ Remove the plant from its container. Gently loosen the soil around the roots. This will help the plant to spread its roots.
- ◆ Place the plant in the hole at the same depth as it was in its original container.
- ◆ Fill the hole with the mixture of enriched and native soil, placing soil gently and firmly around the root ball.

Watering – Water thoroughly to help set the plant and to remove air pockets from around the roots. Water new plantings regularly. Maintain moist conditions in summer by mulching and regular watering. Good drainage is also important, as plants do not like wet, heavy soil especially in the cold months.

Pruning – Some sources recommend removing all flower buds the first year. The theory is that by not blooming the first year, the plant puts all its energy into roots and leaves to produce a longer-lived plant.

Note: We have planted lots of blue poppies, sometimes we remove the flower buds when young and sometimes we don't. And we can't say for sure that it mattered one way or another, just trying to pass on the wisdom we have gleaned from our extensive research and experimenting with these beautiful and sometimes frustrating plants.

Due to many factors that may affect successful growing, we are unable to guarantee these plants.

For More Information on meconopsis visit:

<http://www.meconopsis.org/>

www.alaskabg.org/meconopsis.pdf - Meconopsis in Alaska