

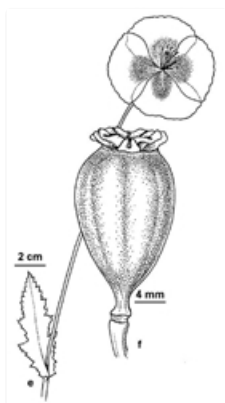
# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower (subsp. *setigerum*). Photographer Jackie Mes



Flowering plant. Photographer Don Wood, Princes Highway north of Bega



Line drawing. e. flowering stem; f. seed case. M Mbir. ©2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board, Melbourne, Vic

## Common name

Opium poppy, Common poppy

## Family

Papaveraceae

## Where found

Grassy areas, roadsides, disturbed sites, dunes, beaches and stream banks. Western Slopes. ACT. Coast and ranges north of Berry. Widespread elsewhere but not common.

## Notes

**Introduced annual** herb to 1.5 m tall. Stems hairless or bristly, often **glaucous**. Leaves basal and **alternating** up the stems, to 30 cm long, glaucous to sparsely bristly, margins often lobed, usually toothed, bases often **cordate**, upper leaves stem-clasping. Flowers with 4 white, pink, mauve, red, or purple **petals**, often with a purple spot at the base, each 40-80 mm long. Flowers Oct.–Apr.

**subsp. *somniferum***: Stems and leaves with no or few bristly hairs. Seed cases round, frequently to 5 cm in diameter, and do not release their seed.

**subsp. *setigerum***: Stems and leaves covered in bristly hairs. Seed cases cylindrical to almost round, usually less than 2 cm in diameter, and release the seed by pores.

Subspecies are not recognised in the ACT and Vic.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Papaver-somniferum> (accessed 29 January, 2021)

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