

# Horned poppy

*Glaucium flavum*

## Family

Papaveraceae (poppy)

## Also known as

Sea poppy, yellow hornpoppy, *G. luteum*

## Where is it originally from?

Western Europe, Mediterranean, South Western Asia

## What does it look like?

Annual or perennial herb which starts as a tufted rosette, then produces stout, erect, hairless, bluish-green stems (20 cm to 50 cm tall). Leaves are also bluish-green, with very deeply lobed or toothed lower leaves (<50 cm long x 10 cm wide) that are hairy on both surfaces. Upper leaves are smaller, egg-shaped or triangular, hairy above and almost hairless below, shallowly lobed and without leaf stalks. Flowers are held individually on short, hairless stalks (1-2 cm long). Sepals are hairy, and the flowers made up of four overlapping yellow petals (30mm x 40mm, Nov-Mar) and develop into long seed capsules (<30 cm long and 0.7 mm wide) with warty surfaces.

## Are there any similar species?

Californian poppy has more highly divided leaves, watery sap and short, thick seed capsules that split into two parts.

## Why is it weedy?

Withstands hot, dry conditions and thrives in poor soils. Frost tolerant.

## How does it spread?

Seed spread by water.

## What damage does it do?

Outcompetes small native grasses and herbs on poor soils.

## Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Bare, gravelly or sandy, dry or well-drained soils with high light levels such as rocky and shingly coast line, coastal cliffs, dunes and braided rivers.

## What can I do to get rid of it?

Pull out small patches (spring-summer).

## What can I do to stop it coming back?

Monitor the site and pull out any seedlings. Where appropriate plant local native plants to produce shade.



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Photo: Carolyn Lewis



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