A poppy can be any member of the genus Papaver, which contains about 70 species of annuals, perennials and biennial plants. All are native to temperate zones of the world. Most have four petals, and are grown as ornamentals.

Papaver rhoeas (common names include common poppy, corn poppy, Flanders poppy, field poppy, red poppy) is notable as an agricultural weed (hence the common names including “corn” and “field”) and for its medicinal uses.

Wildlife Value: Attracts bee hover fly. Play Value: Poppy flowers are a favorite among children. Culture: This reliable herbaceous plant can be perennial or annual, and prefers to be planted in full sun with well-drained soil. There are over 600 species covering a wide range of climates, but generally they are hardy in Zones 5-10.