

## Making Seed Tape for California Poppies (*Escholtzia californica*)

Seed tape is an uncomplicated way to plant small seeds outside in the garden. There are commercial products, such as the two pictured below. But it is fun and easy to make at home or in the classroom, mess free. All you need is a few common items, the seed, then a place to plant them in the fall.

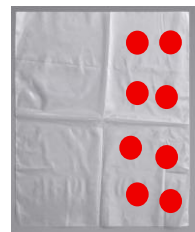


Materials needed:

Cheap toilet paper, tissues, napkins, or paper towels. The thinner and cheaper, the better. Do not use those enhanced with lanolin, perfumes, non-paper products, or dyes. These can be cut into strips or used like a small mat.

Glue: for small seeds, glue sticks work well, are fairly mess free and dry instantly. You can also make a flour and water paste to glue the seeds to the paper as well but takes time to dry.

When using the glue stick method, we usually take a napkin and open it flat. On one side (1/2), we place about 8 glue dots from the glue stick, 4 in 2 of the 4 squares. Then we sprinkle 4-5 seeds to each glue dot. Then we fold the napkin over long ways so that the unglued side sticks to the glue dots, trapping the seeds between the layer of paper napkin. Now store in a dry, cool place until planting.



Now for planting the California Poppy Seed. They rely on fall rains and cooler temperatures to germinate and grow. So, wait until sometime late October, early November. Dig down in the soil about 1/8-1/4 inch where you wish to see the poppies grow and flower. It does not need to be an irrigated area if you are able to apply additional water in the event, we do not receive sufficient rainfall. Gently water so as not to disturb the area, then come out with about a one-half gallon of water the next week if we have not had rain. They need to be watered about 4-5 times in the fall if no rainfall. Then once they are growing, you do not need additional water past December or early January.



Using flour and water paste

