



Romneya coulteri
Matilija Poppy

Large perennial
Sun to part shade
Moderate to little water
Origin: California

This perennial plant is a member of the Poppy family. It is difficult to establish in the garden but once it takes hold it can become quite aggressive even coming up through cracks in concrete. It spreads by underground stems quickly in sandy soil. It is an excellent plant on slopes. In spring and summer tall stems up to 10 feet high are sheathed in handsome gray green leaves and topped with white crepe paper flowers with yellow centers. The flowers are gracious beauties and the queen of California wildflowers. This plant is not a good choice for the neat and tailored garden. Plant it where it can spread out and make a beautiful mess. Cut it nearly to the ground in early winter to help it look and bloom better. Wear gloves when cutting it back as the leaves and stems are prickly.