

How to Grow Macleaya

Position – Full sun or part shade

Soil – Moist, well-drained

Flowering Period – Summer

Hardiness – Fully hardy

About Macleaya

Macleaya are herbaceous perennial plants that form imposing and architectural mounds of undulating foliage and blooms. They look as though they are a forest of feather dusters, showcasing textured panicles of tiny flowers and lobed leaves throughout the summer period. It is suggested that they are best suited to flower beds and borders within a cottage, informal or prairie style garden. You should expect to see Macleaya grow to an approximate height of 1.8m (6') and a spread of 90cm (36"). Macleaya are also more commonly known as Plume Poppy.

How to plant Macleaya

Macleaya are best planted in moist, well-drained soil of chalk, loam, sand and clay within an acidic, alkaline or neutral PH balance. They are tolerant in a position of full sun or part shade so long as the soil has good drainage. As these plants are invasive, choose your site with care, ensuring it does not cause detrimental effect to companion plants. Dig a hole that will accommodate the depth and width of the root ball and gently insert into the planting area, watering thoroughly.

How to care for Macleaya

Once established, Macleaya are easy to look after and maintain. Soil should be kept consistently moist and therefore a regular watering schedule should be undertaken. Once the flowering period has ceased, you should deadhead your flowers and cut back to ground level during the autumn.

How to propagate Macleaya

It is possible to propagate Macleaya by division during late autumn or spring. This should be undertaken every four years to maintain vigorous growth.