## National Flower



- The national flower of Belgium is the Red Poppy. It belongs to the Papaveraceae family and subfamily Papaveroideae. Red Poppies are nonwoody annual plant having a life cycle lasting two seasons or short-lived lasting for three seasons. Some kinds are (monocarpic), dying after bearing fruit only once.
- The plant can be over 4 feet tall with flowers up to six inches across. Number of Petals: The Red Poppy flower has 4 to 6 petals, many stamens forming a visible curl in the center of the flower and an ovary consisting of 2 to many merged carpels.
- The petals are showy may be of almost any color and some have markings. The petals
  are uneven in the bud as blooming finishes. The petals often lie uniformly before falling
  away.
- Belgium Red Poppy flowers are in full bloom late spring to early summer. Most species secrete fluid when injured. Bees use poppies as a pollen source.

