

The Arctic poppy

Until early June, the snow fell daily over the town, and the large lake near the town was still covered by a thick layer of ice. At night the temperature reached often down to ten degrees below zero. The fiord was filled with field ice. It was hard to understand that the Arctic summer was at hand.

But after some hot days in mid-June, thanks to the sun and the warm Foehn wind from the ice sheet, suddenly everything hurried up. The snow disappeared, and the ice on the lake broke up.

Within a very short time the annual miracle began. The dusty rocks and roads were washed clean by a few rainy days and insensibly it bubbles up with small green sprouts everywhere. The willows are suddenly with delicate buds. In the mountains it again smells nice of humus and heather.

It all culminates around The National Day of Greenland on June 21 and until the end of the month. All around in the

town the gardens and the roadsides are covered with yellow dandelions and buttercups and the blue lupine.

But the flower which I find most interesting is the yellow Arctic poppy. It seems almost feminine with its thin petals and its beautiful, delicate yellow colour. It is an agile plant. The whole day the plant turns the flowers to the sun, so the insects are lured to the centre of the yellow flower. Often, the small shrub stands close to small and large stones. The stones are heated by the sun and provide heat from themselves to the roots of the Arctic poppy.

The Arctic poppy seems delicate, but it manages fine. It is perennial, has long roots, and its flower buds and stems are filled with long hair, which protect against the cold. The Arctic poppy has spread to most of the Arctic, and as far north as the northern parts of Greenland, you can find the delicate yellow flower.



Qaqortoq, August 2015

The Arctic poppy

[Go to the Text](#)

[Quit](#)