Alpine Columbine

Aquilegia alpina

Plant Height: 12 inches

Flower Height: 18 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 2b

Description:

Dainty, nodding flowers on dark, graceful stems, long lasting flowers can be a combination of blue and white; lacy foliage and compact clumping habit; a welcome addition to woodland plantings

Ornamental Features

Alpine Columbine features dainty nodding sky blue flowers with white overtones at the ends of the stems from mid spring to early summer. Its attractive deeply cut ferny compound leaves remain bluish-green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Alpine Columbine is an herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects

Alpine Columbine is recommended for the following landscape applications;

Alpine Columbine flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Alpine Columbine flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Alpine Columbine will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity extending to 18 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 12 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 8 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Alpine Columbine is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.