

Columbine

Aquilegia canadensis

QUICK FACTS

USDA ZONES

3–8

SUNLIGHT

Part Shade

BLOOM

Spring

HEIGHT

1–3 ft

DEER

Resistant

ORIGIN

North American native

POLLINATORS

Yes

AT A GLANCE

Columbines are short-lived perennials -- expect 3–5 years from each plant. Self-seeding is what makes them persist in a garden; if you deadhead everything, you lose the population over time. The leafminer damage that appears on the foliage from late spring onward is unsightly but not fatal -- the plant's stored energy is largely unaffected. Cutting the foliage to the ground in midsummer allows clean new growth to emerge.

PLANTING CHECKLIST

- Match site to sun requirements above before buying
- Test soil drainage — dig a 12" hole, fill with water, time it (should drain in 1–2 hrs)
- Dig hole 2x wider than rootball, same depth
- Backfill with native soil — do NOT amend the planting hole
- Water deeply at planting and weekly for first 3 weeks
- Mulch 2" deep, keep mulch 2" away from trunk/stems

FULL GUIDE WITH SOURCES

<https://outdoorplantcare.com/plants/columbine-care/>