

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing Aquilegia

Aquilegia, commonly known as Columbine, is a beautiful perennial wildflower to add to your gardens because it will bring a pop of spring color. Columbine is an excellent choice because it returns year after year. Columbine are distinguished by their small, rounded leaves and their tall stalks with blooms appearing above the foliage. A big benefit to growing Columbine in your garden is it will attract hummingbirds, bees, butterflies and more. Columbine is a tall plant, and it can reach a height of nearly three feet. However, there are dwarf varieties. Columbine will bloom in blue, orange, pink, purple, white, yellow or red depending on the variety.



[Aquilegia seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

To plant:

Columbine seeds are best when they are directly sown into the garden. Plant the seeds throughout the spring time. When planting, just lightly press them into the soil but don't cover the seeds because they require light to germinate. If planting from seeds and not a transplant purchased at a garden center, it will take two years before your Columbine plant will bloom.

To grow:

Columbine isn't too picky when it comes to the type of soil it grows in, but it does prefer soil with a pH of 5.0 to 6.0. Columbine grows best in partial shade, and it is best grown in USDA Hardiness Zones 3-9. Water your plants frequently, keeping the soil moist, until they become established and then water regularly. While growing, it may be a good idea to add a fence around your Columbine plants if you have pets because Columbine

is considered to be mildly toxic to animals.

To harvest:

Columbine plants bloom for up to four weeks in the spring time. Columbine plants have long stems usually, so you can try adding them to your cut-flower bouquets. Also, be sure to deadhead Columbine by pinching off the flower head when it begins to wilt. After the Columbines have bloomed for the season, cut them back by half. They may bloom again. If you don't want the Columbine plants to reseed themselves, again deadhead the spent blooms after the second growth cycle. After it dies naturally in the summer, cut the Columbine back to 1 inch above the ground.

What Aquilegia craves:

Columbine will continue to return each year but to ensure it produces its best flowers and foliage, fertilize it monthly with a water-soluble fertilizer. This helps the plant produce thicker foliage and brighter flowers.



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Where to buy Aquilegia seeds:

Urban Farmer offers Aquilegia seeds that bloom into a vibrant mix of a variety of colors with a delicate foliage.

Find Aquilegia seeds on our website at ufseeds.com!



[Aquilegia seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)



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