



***Aquilegia Canadensis* - Wild Columbine**

COMMON NAME: Wild columbine

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Aquilegia Canadensis* – the Latin *Aquila* “eagle” refers to the shape of the petals, thought to resemble an eagle’s claw.

FLOWER COLOR: Orange to red-yellow

BLOOMING PERIOD: May to June

SIZE: 2-3 feet

BEHAVIOR: Short-lived perennial that reseeds easily.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Flowers best in full sun, but tolerates light shade. It prefers dry, sandy sites in woods, cliffs. It needs moisture but the soil must drain well.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The flowers are nodding with upward spurred petals alternating with spreading colored sepals and numerous yellow stamens hanging below the petals. The compound leaves, divided into round-lobed threes, are attractive in their own right. Columbine is a favorite of hummingbirds, bumblebees and small children.

SUGGESTED CARE: Will flower the second year from seed. Sprinkle seeds in July and August. Columbine does not tolerate competition.

NATURAL RANGE: All of the eastern 2/3 of the US, southern Canada. All of Wisconsin.

COMPANION PLANTS: In dry oak woods with wild sarsaparilla and Solomon’s plume; in shady prairie remnants with little bluestem, blazingstar, showy goldenrod and spiderwort.