



Columbine Planting Guide

About Columbines

Columbines are a highly adaptable flower that produces fern-like foliage and luscious blossoms varying in color from blue, yellow, red, pink, lavender and white. They are also deer resistant, and birds and butterflies love the nectar found in the tip of the petals' thin spur! Columbines are perennials that are hardy to zones 3 to 8 or 9, depending on variety.

When to Plant

If starting seeds outdoors, sow 3-4 weeks before the last spring frost. Or, if starting indoors, sow about 6 weeks before the last frost.

Where to Plant

Columbines perform best in full sun to part shade, in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils. They thrive in beds or borders, rock gardens, cottage gardens, and shade gardens. Additionally, they can be planted in containers or window boxes and they make wonderful cut flowers, lasting up to 2 weeks in a vase!

How to Plant

For best results, put columbine seeds in the refrigerator for 24 hours prior to planting. If starting indoors, fill starter trays with soil and gently place seeds into the top of the soil. Do not cover, as light is crucial for germination. Gently transplant after germination (14-21 days). Or directly sow seeds into a prepared seed bed with loosened, weed free soil. Sow seeds in groups of 3-4, and space the seed groups 16" apart. Thin to the strongest plant.

Caring for Columbines

Remove flowering stems after bloom to encourage additional bloom and keep soil moist before and after germination to prolong foliage appearance. When foliage depreciates, plants may be cut to the ground. Columbines are generally short-lived but will self-seed prolifically to form large colonies in satisfactory growing conditions.