Town & Country gardens

Crimson Star Columbine

Aquilegia 'Crimson Star'



Crimson Star Columbine flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 15 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 2

Other Names: Granny's Bonnet, Crowfoot

Description:

Dainty, nodding, bell-shape red and yellow flowers on a many-branched plant; makes a welcome addition to shade and woodland gardens

Ornamental Features

Crimson Star Columbine is smothered in stunning nodding crimson bell-shaped flowers with yellow overtones at the ends of the stems from late spring to early summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its lobed compound leaves remain bluish-green in color throughout the season.



Crimson Star Columbine flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Crimson Star Columbine is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading 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

Crimson Star Columbine is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Crimson Star Columbine will grow to be about 15 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 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 5 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 performs well in both full sun and full 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 particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Crimson Star Columbine is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.