Town & Country gardens

Blue Butterflies Columbine

Aquilegia 'Blue Butterflies'



Blue Butterflies Columbine flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Height: 30 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 2

Other Names: Granny's Bonnet, Crowfoot

Description:

Elegant purple-blue flowers with white edged cups and interesting spurred petals rise over the medium green delicate foliage; a wonderful addition to border edges or massed in the garden; will self seed

Ornamental Features

Blue Butterflies Columbine features showy nodding blue bell-shaped flowers with white centers at the ends of the stems from late spring to early summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its lobed compound leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Blue Butterflies Columbine is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

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

Blue Butterflies Columbine is recommended for the following landscape applications;

5800 S Yellowstone Hwy
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
(208) 522-5247
www.mygardengeek.com

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

Planting & Growing

Blue Butterflies Columbine will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 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.

Blue Butterflies Columbine is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. 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.