

# AMERICAN COLUMBINE

*Aquilegia canadensis*

*One of America's oldest garden plants. This showy flowerer is great for that partially shaded spot in the garden.*



**Description:** A delicate but hardy perennial. Flowers showy, spurred, 1"-2" inches long; nodding at the tips of slender branches with spurs pointing upward. Five tubular, red petals with yellow lips alternate with five flat, reddish sepals; numerous yellow stamens project downward well beyond the petals and sepals; five green pistils with long thin styles are surrounded by the stamens. Distinctive petals extend backward into long hollow spurs ending in nectar-filled knobs.

**Natural Habitat:** Wooded bluffs of streams, wooded slopes, banks and slopes of deep ravines, borders and clearings in deciduous or mixed woods or thickets.

**Size:** 2-3 feet high

**Growth Rate:** Fast

**Light:** Part shade

**Planting and Care:** Cultivated as a garden plant in America since the mid-1600s. Does best in well-drained, loose, slightly acid, sandy loam with organic matter, but will grow in a wide range of soils, including clays, especially if they drain well and have organic matter added. Long-lived and reliable.

**Ornamental Value:** Spring bloom. The medium textured, light green foliage makes it a valuable landscape plant long after the blooms fade.

**Wildlife Benefits:** The flower is adapted to long-tongued nectar-feeders, notably hawk moths and hummingbirds.