



Grand Erie Master Gardeners



Brant

Haldimand

Norfolk



Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

Wild Columbine is a spring blooming perennial valued in gardens for its droopy red/yellow flowers. It is adaptable to shade or sun and persists in gardens by self-seeding. It ranges throughout the Great Lakes region westward to southeastern Saskatchewan, south to Texas and Georgia and northeast to the Maritime provinces.



Photo credits: Kevin Kavanagh



Plant Type:

Perennial; individual plants can be short-lived but plants seed back in easily.



Light Conditions:

Shade to sun. Grows best in the dappled light of a shade garden.



Soil/Moisture:

Sandy, loamy, gravelly well-drained soils preferred but reasonably adaptable to other soil types. Prefers moist to drier soil conditions. Resents soggy soils.



Size/Height:

Flower stalks rise to 30-90cm (1-3 ft). Basal leaves stay under 30 cm (1ft).



Flowers:

Late spring - early summer. Attractive seed heads remain standing into autumn



Wildlife Benefits:

The flowers are attractive to small native bees. Ruby Throated Hummingbirds prize the flowers as they return from spring migration. It is a host plant for the Columbine Duskywing and the Columbine Borer Moth. The seeds are consumed by birds and some insects.



Wild Columbine pairs well with Wild Geraniums, Golden Alexanders, Sedges (to hide leaves as they die back), Wild Ginger, Blue Phlox and other woodland plants. Suitable for pollinator gardens, shade gardens, rock gardens and naturalization projects.