

Aquilegia canadensis

'Little Lanterns'



Aquilegia (a-kwi-lee-gee-a) From the Latin *aquila*, into the claws of an eagle, alluding to the projecting spurs on the back of the flowers.
canadensis (kan-a-den-sis) meaning belonging to Canada.

Zones: 3 - 8 **Flower Color:** Yellow/Red **Height:** 10" **Spacing:** 18"

'Little Lanterns' is of garden origin. It was discovered among cultivated plants and introduced by Jelitto Perennial Seed in 2002. This *Aquilegia* will bloom in May and June, and grow to be 10" high. The bright scarlet and yellow colors of the flowers attract hummingbirds. The basal row of leaves is gray-green and fine textured.

About the Species:

Common Name: Wild Columbine

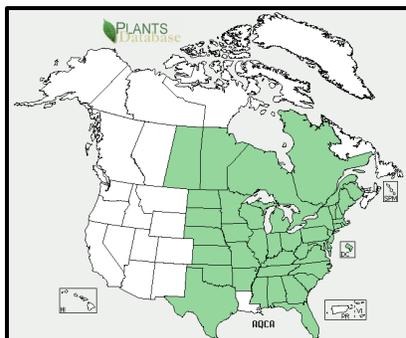
Family: Ranunculacea

Habitat: Rocky woods and slopes of Eastern North America.



In the Garden: As early as the 1600's, Europeans began importing our native *Aquilegia canadensis* in to their own gardens. The noted naturalist, John Tradescant, the younger (son of John Tradescant, gardener to Charles 1) first collected and introduced *Aquilegia canadensis* while traveling to the Virginia area on flower-hunting journeys. *Aquilegia canadensis* has been cultivated in Europe and North America since the mid 1600's. Grow in moist well-drained soil and filtered shade to keep this plant happy. Columbines tend to rot if the soil is poorly drained as they are naturally found growing in rocky woods and slopes.

Other Uses: Native Americans had found many uses for the wild Columbine. *Meskwaki* Indians were known to mix ripe *Aquilegia* seed capsules with their smoking tobacco to help make it smell better. Young unmarried men would use the crushed seed to make a powder to rub on their hands as a love charm or to concoct a love potion when courting. The roots were eaten by other groups of Indians and a tea from the seeds was used to treat headaches and fever



USDA Plants Database

Imagine If You Will

One spring morning, Abigail Goodman was walking her cows to their pasture along the stream that runs through her family farm. The path led her by a wooded hillside where she spied, at the edge of the woods among the rocks, bright yellow and red flowers waving in the breeze. She returned in the summer to carefully collect some seeds (leaving some to reseed themselves in gay abandonment). Abigail sowed her wild Columbine seeds in her garden at the side of the house. After the seeds germinated the plants grew to be large and healthy. Abigail especially loved the bright colors of the flowers and brought them into the house whenever she could, placing them in a vase or Mason jar with some fern fronds, on the kitchen table.