Chocolate Soldier Green Columbine

Aquilegia viridiflora 'Chocolate Soldier'

Plant Height: 4 inches

Flower Height: 12 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3

Other Names: Granny's Bonnet, Crowfoot

Description:

This relatively compact columbine is perfect for sun dappled shade in moist areas; graceful, fragrant, nodding blooms with brownish-red petals and chartreuse spurs and sepals appear in mid-spring over attractive blue-green foliage

Ornamental Features

Chocolate Soldier Green Columbine features showy nodding burgundy bell-shaped flowers with plum purple overtones, yellow eyes and chartreuse spurs at the ends of the stems in mid spring. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its ferny compound leaves remain bluish-green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Chocolate Soldier Green Columbine is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

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

Chocolate Soldier Green Columbine is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Chocolate Soldier Green Columbine flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Chocolate Soldier Green Columbine flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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

Planting & Growing

Chocolate Soldier Green Columbine will grow to be only 4 inches tall at maturity extending to 12 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 12 inches. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. 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! As this plant tends to go dormant in summer, it is best interplanted with late-season bloomers to hide the dying foliage.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. 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.

Chocolate Soldier Green 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.