# Dark Columbine

***Aquilegia atrovinosa***

Plant Height: 12 inches

Flower Height: 18 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

**Description:**

These darkly elegant Aquilegias have rich purple flowers that have deep blue almost black accents, rising above interesting variegated foliage; a graceful addition to the garden or along border edges



*Dark Columbine flowers*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*



*Dark Columbine in bloom*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

**Ornamental Features**

Dark Columbine features showy nodding purple bell-shaped flowers with royal blue overtones and yellow eyes at the ends of the stems in late spring. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive lobed compound leaves remain bluish-green in color with showy yellow variegation throughout the season.

**Landscape Attributes**

Dark Columbine is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

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

Dark Columbine is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

**Planting & Growing**

Dark Columbine will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity extending to 18 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a fast 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 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 species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Dark 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 and foliage 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.