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# Common Columbine

## *(Aquilegia vulgaris)*



- Common Columbine is a short-lived, but self-seeding, woodland perennial, with dainty bell-shaped flowers, native to Europe.
- While usually blue in the wild, hybrids exist in colours ranging from purple to pink to white. Bi-colour varieties are also popular.
- It has naturalized in some areas of eastern North America and is often found around old homesteads and abandoned gardens.
- The bell-shaped flowers are a favourite among hummingbirds, but also attract butterflies and bees.

### Interesting Facts

- Its names refer to birds – ‘Columbine’ means ‘like a dove’ (the flowers looking like five doves clustered together), while ‘Aquilegia’ means eagle in Latin (the shape of the petal spurs resembling an eagle’s talons) – one flower, two very different birds!