Christa Barlow Columbine

Aquilegia vulgaris 'Christa Barlow'



Christa Barlow Columbine flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 16 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 2

Other Names: Granny's Bonnet, Crowfoot

Description:

A unique variation of Columbine, featuring fluffy double flowers of deep blue edged in white, on nodding stems, well above the lacy green foliage mound; wonderful for containers or border edging

Ornamental Features

Christa Barlow Columbine features showy nodding double purple bell-shaped flowers with blue overtones and white edges at the ends of the stems from late spring to early summer, which emerge from distinctive violet flower buds. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its lobed compound leaves remain green in colour throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Christa Barlow 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

Christa Barlow 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

Christa Barlow Columbine will grow to be about 16 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 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 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.

Christa Barlow Columbine is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.