Blackcurrant Ice Columbine

Aquilegia flabellata 'Blackcurrant Ice'



Blackcurrant Ice Columbine flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 6 inches

Flower Height: 8 inches

Spread: 8 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Japanese Fan Columbine

Description:

Attractive deep purple-blue flowers with butter yellow edged cups and interesting spurred petals rise over the medium blue-green delicate foliage; a wonderful addition to border edges or massed in the garden; will tend to self seed

Ornamental Features

Blackcurrant Ice Columbine has nodding deep purple bell-shaped flowers with buttery yellow overtones and creamy white centers at the ends of the stems from late spring to early summer, which are interesting on close inspection. Its attractive lobed compound leaves remain teal in colour throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Blackcurrant Ice Columbine is an herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

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

Blackcurrant Ice 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

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Planting & Growing

Blackcurrant Ice Columbine will grow to be only 6 inches tall at maturity extending to 8 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 8 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 6 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.

Blackcurrant Ice 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 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.