Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

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Songbird Blue Bird Columbine

Aquilegia 'Blue Bird'



Songbird Blue Bird Columbine flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 20 inches

Flower Height: 28 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Bluebird Columbine, Granny's Bonnet, Crowfoot

Group/Class: Songbird Series

Description:

Lovely pale blue and white bicolor blooms, that are long lasting as cut flowers; a great color accent for the garden, does well in partial shade, will naturalize in wooded, or other shaded areas

Ornamental Features

Songbird Blue Bird Columbine features bold nodding sky blue bell-shaped flowers with white overtones and yellow eyes at the ends of the stems from late spring to early summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its ferny compound leaves remain bluish-green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Songbird Blue Bird 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.



Songbird Blue Bird Columbine flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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

Songbird Blue Bird 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

Songbird Blue Bird Columbine will grow to be about 20 inches tall at maturity extending to 28 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. 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!

This plant performs well in both full sun and full shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. 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.

Songbird Blue Bird 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.