



How to Grow Aquilegia

Position – Sun or part shade

Soil – Moist, well-drained

Flowering Period – Summer

Hardiness – Hardy to fully hardy

About Aquilegia

Aquilegia are clump-forming herbaceous perennials where double blooms nod in the breeze above layered petticoats of lacy grey-green foliage throughout spring and summer. Despite their delicate appearance, they are tough little chaps and are very easy to grow. They are best suited to flower beds and borders within informal, courtyard and cottage gardens. You should expect Aquilegia to grow to an approximate height and spread of 45cm (18").

Planting Aquilegia

Aquilegia are best planted in moist, well-drained soil of sand, loam and chalk within an acidic, alkaline or neutral PH balance. If planting bare roots, place the root, growing points up, into a hole in the ground. Cover with 5 cm of soil or compost up to the ground level. Should you have heavy soil which does not drain easily the roots can be planted into pots and transplanted once they have broken dormancy. Young plants should be put into pots for 4-6 weeks until they are strong enough to go straight into flower beds and borders.

Caring for your Aquilegia

Bare roots can take a little time to settle in, however generally within 8 weeks the plants will have put down fresh roots and foliage will start to appear. Flowers should appear a few weeks after. Remove the flower heads as they go over so you can scatter them where you chose, or dispose of them. The plant can die back for a short period of time before re-emerging fresh to increase in size over the summer. The plant will die back naturally with the frosts.

Propagating Aquilegia

Aquilegia seed freely, however the seedlings are rarely true to type due to cross pollination. Alternatively, you may wish to divide during the spring.