

columbine *Aquilegia canadensis*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Ranunculales

Family: Ranunculaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The columbine is a perennial plant that grows from thick roots. Its upright, branched stems may be two feet tall. The basal leaves are doubly compounded, with the leaflets smooth or slightly hairy. The leaves on the upper stems are divided and do not have stalks. Flowers are borne in racemes at the tip of the stem. Each flower may be two and one-half inches long on a slender stalk. The five petals are projected backwards into five hollow spurs that are red outside and yellow inside. The fruit consists of a cluster of five follicles with slender beaks.

BEHAVIORS

The columbine may be found statewide in Illinois. This plant grows in rocky woods. The columbine flowers from mid-April to July.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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