

Aquilegia canadensis

Native to Maine

Red Columbine
Eastern Columbine

Upland
Forests, Bluffs, Wetlands, and Roadsides

Leaves



R. Martin



Look for leaves that are green to blue-green in color. Leaves are compound and divided into lobed leaflets. Leaves grow from the plant's base and off the flowering stems. Leaves can grow up to 8 cm across.

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 PALMATE	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 OVAL	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 ROUND	 WAVY

Plant



R. Martin



Look for a 30 to 80 cm tall perennial (living three or more years) plant. Red columbine is an upright, branching plant.

Stem



R. Martin



Red columbine stems are sturdy and have many branches. The stem is round with slight ridges. It is covered in small white hairs. It can be purple in color.

Seasonal Change



Flickr.com user firedesign



Red columbine begins to grow in early spring. Look for downward facing red and yellow flowers from March to July and fruit from June to August.

Similar Species

There are many different columbines that can be found in household gardens in the northeast. Red columbine is the only columbine with red flowers in the wild.

Did You Know?

Red columbine flowers have backward-pointing tubes that contain nectar. The nectar attracts long-tongued insects and hummingbirds adapted to reach the sweet liquid.