Aquilegia formosa

California Columbine







Photographs by Margaret L. Fillius

HERBACEOUS PERENNIAL (overwinters as a basal leaf cluster) 2 - 3' high, 2' across.

Small blue-green leaves.

Flowers red-orange with yellow center, spurs - June to August.

Native habitat: moist places in chaparral, oak woodland, mixedevergreen or coniferous forest, below 9000' from Alaska to Baja Californica and Montana.

Light shade to shade. Frost resistant.

Best in peat-moss amended soil with acidic leaf-mold mulch. Regular water (4x/month) with moist soil. Good drainage.

Easy to grow. Good in shady borders and as understory with ferns. Blooms abundantly with summer water. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

