

Columbine

Buttercup (or Crowfoot) Family. RANUNCULACEAE: *Aquilegia formosa*

Habit/Habitat: Native. Herbaceous. Riparian, woodland, chaparral. Damp, cool habitat in high mountains.

Characteristics: Bright red/yellow flowers. Plants up to 2' high. Flowers 3/4 to 1" in diameter. Bloom April to August.

Features: Nodding flowers with petals formed in long spurs/tubes with nectaries for pollinator attraction. Lobed leaves are key to identification as crows' feet footprint.

Use: An already widely used plant for urban gardens and pond-side plantings.

Unique: Very unique flower structures with the spur nectaries. Referred to as elegant and odd. Some see in the flower ballet dancers or bells; others see ornate eagle talons.

Names: *Aquilegia* (eagle) refers to the resemblance of the flower spurs to eagle talons.

