



Alpine Garden Society Ulster Group

Plant of the Month, May 2021

Aquilegia grahamii - by Joan McCaughey (néé Graham)

A small and delicate flower, here growing to around 10cm in height, *Aquilegia grahamii* is one of the small number (8) of red-coloured aquilegias in North America.

This plant was grown from AGS seed sown in 2013 (and to be honest, could just be *Aquilegia canadensis* which is similar but is distributed throughout most of eastern USA and Canada.)



Aquilegia grahamii was found in 1935 by EH Graham, in the Uinta Mountains of Utah, where it grows in a very small number of locations, generally along the drip line below sandstone cliffs.

The nectar of these red columbines has twice the sugar content of other North American aquilegias, which provides pollinating hummingbirds with high sugar content and necessary amino acids (they are also pollinated by moths and other insects).