

Thalictrum aquilegia 'Thundercloud' Thundercloud Meadow Rue

Thalictrum aquilegia 'Thundercloud' (Thundercloud Meadow Rue) is a tall and showy Meadow Rue with clouds of delicate, lavender-pink to lilac inflorescences. Foliage emerges in early spring as a mound of rounded and intricately cut, blue green foliage typical of Meadow Rues. Stem color is a deep burgundy that contrasts starkly against the foliage and flower color. When in flower from May to July, these blooms decorate each branching stem like ornate fireworks. These bursts of color are not petals, but are the showy stamens of each flower. Delicate stamens and foliage flutter in the late spring breeze, giving an airy quality of lightness. This plant makes a statement at 3-4' and 1-2' wide. It is stunning when planted en masse, and works well in less formal settings and borders. 'Thundercloud' thrives in rich, moist soils, yet can tolerate drought. Prefers part-shade but can tolerate full sun with more soil moisture. Great for rain gardens or pond edges.

Botanical Name: Thalictrum aquilegia 'Thundercloud'

Common Name: Thundercloud Meadowrue

Family: Ranunculaceae

Nativity: Not Native to US

USDA Zone: 5 to 8

Light Type: Full sun, Part-shade

Soil Type: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Preferences: Well-drained loam, high in organic matter

Soil Moisture: Moist

Typical height (ft): 3-4'

Typical width (ft): 1-2'

Foliage: Blue green, lobed leaves

Bloom Time: May, June, July

Bloom: Lavender, pink, lilac-purple

Ecological features: Pollen attracts some bees, but plant is mostly wind-pollinated

Tolerance of: Drought

Additional notes: Lush foliage resembles Columbine leaves; flowers are very showy and appear as fluffy clouds; purple flower color comes from the showy stamens.

Companion plants: Brunette Baneberry (*Actaea simplex* 'Brunette'), Fan Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia* 'Fan Blue'), Ostrich Plume Astilbe (*Astilbe* 'Ostrich Plume')

For more information see:

https://www.chicagobotanic.org/plantcollections/plantfinder/thalictrum_aquilegifolium_thundercloud--thundercloud_columbine_meadowrue

<https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/thalictrum-aquilegiifolium-thundercloud/>

<https://www.diggingdog.com/plant/P-1822>

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/Plants/117489/Thalictrum-aquilegiifolium-Thundercloud/Details>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/thalictrum-aquilegiifolium/>

Images of Thalictrum aquilegia 'Thundercloud'



13968_flwf_high.jpg

Blooms can range from lavender, pink, to purple



Thalictrum aquilegifolium 'Thundercloud'.jpg

Foliage pattern is rounded overall but with cut forms that vary between leaves



Thalictrum-Thundercloud-1.jpg

Flowers float above foliage on deep purple stems



Thalictrum-Thundercloud-2.jpg

In contrast with other foliage colors



Thalictrum-Thundercloud-with-Rosa-Sceptred-Isle.jpg

Combined with roses

Image choices for narrative:

Thalictrum aquilegifolium 'Thundercloud'.jpg - Foliage pattern is rounded overall but with cut forms that vary between leaves
Thalictrum-Thundercloud-1.jpg – Flowers that float above foliage on deep purple stems