

Friend of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



***Polemonium reptans* – Jacob's Ladder**

COMMON NAME: Jacob's Ladder

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Polemonium reptans* - some believe that *Polemonium* refers to the 2nd century Greek philosopher Polemon. *Reptans*: having creeping and rooting stems. The common name refers to the pairs of opposite leaflets on the compound leaves which supposedly resemble a ladder as in the dream of the biblical Jacob.

FLOWER COLOR: Blue

BLOOMING PERIOD: Late April to mid or late May.

SIZE: Small plant with stems about 10-12 inches high and sprawling along the ground.

BEHAVIOR: Perennial. Propagated by seed and rootstock division. Branched roots.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Moist meadows, moist forest edges. Prefers slightly acid or neutral soil (pH 6 – 7). Its preference is for light shade or partial sun.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Clumps of compound leaves, topped by loose groups of blue, bell-shaped flowers about $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long. Inflated fruit capsules in early summer. Adapts well to flower gardens, especially in partially shaded areas.

SUGGESTED CARE: Requires little care. No need to cover in winter.

NATURAL RANGE: Southern and central Wisconsin. New York to Minnesota and south to Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri and Oklahoma.

COMPANION PLANTS: Spring beauty, white trout lily, wild geranium, Virginia waterleaf, sweet cicely, wild blue phlox, mayapple, Solomon's seal and Solomon's plume. Under trees such as sugar maple, white ash, hop hornbeam, black cherry, white and red oaks.