The Growing Place
Garden Center | Gift Shop | Gardens

Creeping Jacob's Ladder

Polemonium reptans

Creeping Jacob's Ladder flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 15 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 2b

Ornamental Features

Creeping Jacob's Ladder has masses of beautiful panicles of sky blue star-shaped flowers at the ends of the stems from mid spring to early summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its ferny pinnately compound leaves remain green in color throughout the season. The burgundy stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.

Creeping Jacob's Ladder in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Creeping Jacob's Ladder is an herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Creeping Jacob's Ladder is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover

Planting & Growing

Creeping Jacob's Ladder will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 15 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Growing Place Choice Plants

Our Growing Place Choice plants are chosen because they are strong performers year after year, staying attractive with less maintenance when planted in the right place.