

Polemonium reptans 'Stairway to Heaven'

North American Native Cultivar

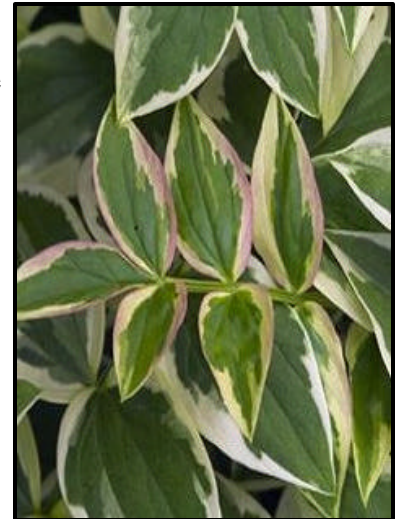


Polemonium (po-lee-mo-nee-um)
From polemonion, the Greek name of a plant.

reptans (rep-tanz) meaning creeping.



Zones: 2 – 9
Flower Color: Lavender-blue
Height: 12” **Spacing:** 12”



The list of variegated Jacob's Ladders that have been introduced to the gardening trade and have quickly dropped off is long. Most will not tolerate our hot humid summers here in the mid-Atlantic region. **'Stairway to Heaven'** is the exception. It has tri-colored foliage of green leaves with white leaf margins that have a hit of pink. 'Stairway to Heaven' will make a nice accent plant, as well as a border plant. Variegated Jacob's Ladder is fragrant, makes a nice cut flower and works well in a container.

About the Species:

Common Name: Jacob's Ladder, Greek-valerian

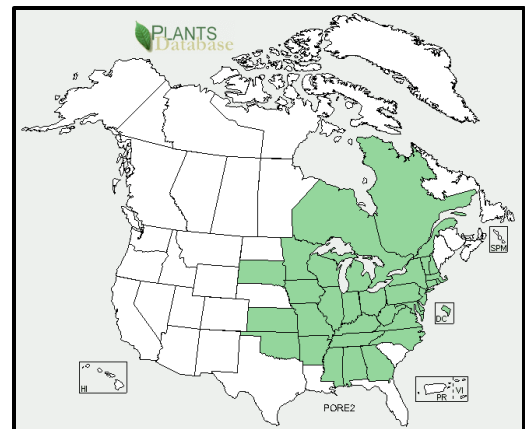
Family: Polemoniaceae

The stems have long, ladder-like solid green leaves: "Jacob's" Ladder, refers to the ladder that Jacob dreamed about and the rest of us climbed. The lavender blue flowers emerge above the mounded, spreading plant growing to the height of 12 inches tall and 18 inches wide. The sprays of blue flowers will arrive in late spring and summer.

Habitat: Found in rich, moist, deciduous woods and stream banks.

We are Climbing...

When looking at *Polemonium reptans* 'Stairway to Heaven' you can see how the leaf structure resembles a ladder. One of the hardiest variegated Jacob's Ladder; it will withstand a multitude of situations. Another sharp-eyed wild flower enthusiast, Bill Cullina, nursery director at the New England Wild Flower Society found 'Stairway to Heaven' in a flat of *P. reptans* var. *reptans* seedlings in 1999. Knowing the potential of this plant he nurtured it for several years making sure it did not revert back to green. If you ever have the opportunity to hear Bill lecture about Wild Flowers, you will be amazed at his knowledge and desire to share his experiences with the audience.



USDA Plants Database

In the Garden: Plant in part shade to full shade in average to moist soils with organic matter added to the planting hole. Use organic mulch to spread around, but not on top of the plants to help keep weeds away and conserve moisture. Use this plant in woodland gardens, wild flower beds, as a single specimen or in mass plantings. Deadheading will keep it looking tidy and may encourage re-blooming. *P. reptans*, is better suited to hot and humid conditions.

Polemonium reptans

'Touch of Class'

North American Native Cultivar



Polemonium

(po-lee-mo-nee-um) From polemonion, the Greek name of a plant.

reptans (rep-tanz) meaning creeping.



Zones: 3 – 7

Flower Color: Pale blue

Height: 14"

Spacing: 16"



'Touch of Class' is a sport of 'Stairway to Heaven' found at Sunny Border Nursery in Connecticut. The leaves of this Jacob's ladder are edged with a narrow, bright white band. The light pink

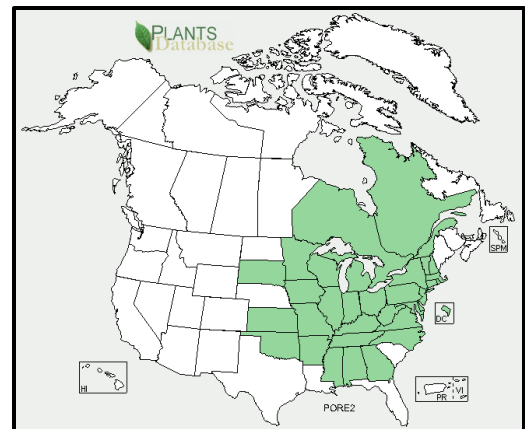
buds open to pale blue in early to midsummer. For fresher foliage, this plant can be cut back and will flush out again. Use this *Polemonium* in the front to middle of flower borders where it will contrast nicely with Hostas and other large foliage perennials. Grow in woodland gardens, containers, and mixed with ferns and other native plants. PP#19768.

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