Jacob’s Ladder
*Polemonium caeruleum*

12-18” soft mounds.

Native to moist woods, bottomlands, and along streams, New York south

Clouds of loose upright branched clusters of nodding cup-shaped deep blue 2/3” flowers with contrasting yellow stamens, at the tips of leafy stems, May-June.

Can cut back after bloom for possible late summer rebloom.

Lovely bright green ladder-rung-like leaflets that stay fresh all season.

Dappled shade or morning sun.
Prefers rich, humusy, consistently moist well-drained soils.
Long-lived. Self-seeds in optimal growing conditions, forming drifts.

Great for massing in spring woodland garden.
Useful for shady locations in fronts of borders, in rock gardens, cottage gardens.
Good plant complements: Jack in the Pulpit, Blue Cohosh, Bloodroot, Trillium, and other woodland garden plants.
Excellent foliage plants

Attracts bees, including Honeybees, Bumblebees, Carpenter Bees, Mason Bees, Cuckoo Bees, Halictid bees, and Andrenid Bees (Andrena polimonii, from the last group, is a specialist pollinator of Polimonium)
Attracts butterflies and skippers.

Photo 1: Katy Chayka, Minnesota Wildflowers
minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/spreading-jacobs-ladder
Photos 2, 5: Mount Cuba Center
mountcubacenter.org
Photo 3: Aaron Carlson, Flora of Wisconsin
wisflora.herbarium.wisc.edu/taxa/index.php?taxon=6800
Photo 4: David G. Smith, Delaware Wildflowers
delawarewildflowers.org/plant.php?id=1504
Photo 6: erutuon
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