

# Jacob's-ladder

## *Polemonium reptans*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division: Magnoliophyta  
Class: Magnoliopsida  
Order: Solanales  
Family: Polemoniaceae

**ILLINOIS STATUS**  
common, native



plant with flowers

### ILLINOIS RANGE



### FEATURES

Jacob's-ladder is a perennial plant that grows from a short, thick root. Its smooth stems are upright or spreading and may grow to nearly one foot tall. The pinnately compound leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. Each leaf is divided into three to 13 leaflets that are oblong, smooth and lack teeth. The five-petaled, pale-blue flowers are clustered at the tip of the stem. Each flower may be two-thirds inch wide on a smooth stalk. The fruit is an ovoid capsule that usually contains three seeds.

### BEHAVIORS

Jacob's-ladder may be found statewide in Illinois. This plant grows in rich woods. Jacob's-ladder flowers from April through June.



plant with flowers

© John Hilty



leaves



flowers

**Aquatic Habitats**

bottomland forests

**Woodland Habitats**

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

**Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none