Purple Rain Jacob's Ladder

Polemonium yezoense 'Purple Rain'



Purple Rain Jacob's Ladder flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 18 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 15 inches

Spacing: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Polemonium yezoense var. hidakanum

Description:

This dark variety presents an attractive mound of deep bronze-purple, lacy foliage on dark red stems; large, blue flowers rise up in early to mid-summer; looks great in the middle to front of the border and easily mixes with other plants

Ornamental Features

Purple Rain Jacob's Ladder has masses of beautiful spikes of royal blue star-shaped flowers with violet overtones and gold anthers rising above the foliage from early to mid summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive ferny pinnately compound leaves remain dark green in color with showy deep purple variegation and tinges of coppery-bronze throughout the season. The dark red stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.

Landscape Attributes

Purple Rain Jacob's Ladder is an herbaceous perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, 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. It has no significant negative characteristics.

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

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

Planting & Growing

Purple Rain Jacob's Ladder will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 15 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 12 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 is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Purple Rain Jacob's Ladder is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.