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Plant Profile

Polemonium caeruleum 'Brise D'Anjou'

A true herbaceous perennial, Polemonium or Jacobs ladder die back over winter, grow away again in spring and are in full flower for summer. The flowers will often hang around through to autumn. There are 25 odd species spread across most of the northern hemisphere all with attractive ferny foliage. Polemonium caeruleum is the most widely cultivated form and has masses of bright blue flowers arranged in ladder like pairs.

Literally translated, 'Brise d'Anjou', means 'Breeze of Anjou'. It was discovered several years ago by the Prouteau brothers in Anjou, France. This variegated forms of Jacob's Ladder has proven to be a reliable and robust selection with the luxurious creamy-edged, fern- like foliage contrasting with the deep violet blue, fragrant flowers. It grows to around 60cm in ideal conditions. In the hotter environments some protection from the afternoon sun and a cool root run will give best results. Tidy up and feed with Osmocote controlled release fertiliser in early spring.

Plant as a border plant around smaller Salvia forms like Salvia muiirii and Salvia 'Hot Lips' or intermingled with beds of Hosta, Heuchera and Tiarella. Polemonium 'Brise D'Anjou' is part of the world wide Blooms range.

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