



Greek valerian

Polemonium reptans

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

Greek valerian, or 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 which 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 which usually contains three seeds.

BEHAVIORS

Greek valerian may be found statewide in Illinois. This plant grows in rich woods. Greek valerian flowers from April through June.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.