

Blue Mound Herb of Grace or Rue



At first glance, you might not think much of this unique little herb - sure, it's pretty enough, with lacy blue foliage and chartreuse blooms - but it has a little secret. It's a pollinator powerhouse, serving as a first-choice food source for the caterpillars of many species of swallowtail butterflies. And because the caterpillars love it, you'll frequently spot butterflies laying eggs on the plant.



Ruta graveolens 'Blue Mound'

- **Use:** Common Rue, also known as herb of grace or herb of repentance, is a hardy perennial medicinal herb. Attractive to pollinating insects. Its leaves food for the caterpillars of butterfly. Deer, insects, mosquitoes hate it, gophers despise it...we love the blue foliage as a foil! Please do not use medicinally without lots of research.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Full sun to semi-shade. Prefers a well drained soil, but tolerates poor soils.
- **Growth:** Grows 1.5'-2' tall and 16-18" wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 5b-9b; Perennial
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Its blue/ green leaves are bipinnate. or tripinnate, each leaflet being spatulate with entire margins and they extremely fragrant if crushed, **but can be a skin irritant.** Smaller in leaf and size than 'Jackman's Blue'
- **Flower:** Its yellow flowers have up to five petals, are borne in cymes and up to 1cm across. Its fruit is a five lobe capsule, this contains many seeds.

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