

## ***Vinca Major*, Greater Periwinkle**

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### **General Botanical Characteristics**

*Vinca Major* is a semi-procumbent shrub with 12" – 36" trailing ascending stems. The leaves are dark green and bigger than those of *Vinca minor*. It has solitary violet flowers at the end of its stems.

### **Seasonal Development**

*Vinca major* is an annual plant. It has dark green leaves all year and flowers throughout the spring and sporadically during the summer.



### **Distribution/Habitat**

*Greater periwinkle* thrives in almost any soil, quickly forming a medium textured evergreen groundcover. It requires full sun to partial shade. Sunnier positions result in more flowers and shadier positions result in more ground covering foliage.

It tolerates dry soils but grows best in rich, moist soils.

### **Interesting Facts**

- Common name: Bigleaf periwinkle.
- All the Vincas are poisonous if ingested
- It is used internally in the treatment of excessive menstrual bleeding, abnormal uterine bleeding and vaginal discharge.
- It is used in chemotherapy in the treatment of cancer.
- Traditional uses include treatments for herpes, cancer, leukemia, and viral infections.

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### **References**

<http://www.tropilab.com/vinca-maj.html>

[http://www.floridata.com/ref/v/vinc\\_maj.cfm](http://www.floridata.com/ref/v/vinc_maj.cfm)

<http://www.tropilab.com/vinca-maj.html>

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