

Vinca

Vinca x 'First Kiss Pure White'

The perennial periwinkle, also known as vinca, should not be confused with the bedding plant, Madagascar periwinkle (*Catharanthus roseus*). These heat-tolerant flowering plants can add a nice pop of color in the summer. Once established, water these Florida-Friendly plants only as needed. Vincas like to be kept on the dry side and the roots will rot if irrigated too frequently. Although they're officially considered perennials, vincas rarely thrive beyond a summer, due to frost or fungal disease.

Type: perennial sometimes treated as annual

USDA hardiness zones: 4 through 12

Uses: specimen; border; mass planting; container; groundcover

Origin: not native to Florida

Height: 7 to 24 inches **Spread:** 1 to 5 feet

Plant spacing: 12 to 24 inches

Light requirement: full sun to full shade

Soil tolerances: well drained; acidic; sand; loam; clay

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: low to none

Invasive potential: not considered aggressive

Pest resistance: suffers from several disease problems

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Photo: UF/ IFAS