

# Periwinkles or Vinca

## *Catharanthus roseus*

Although they're officially considered perennials periwinkles rarely thrive beyond a summer due to frost or fungal disease. Cultivars are available with carpet-like or upright habits. Flowering is prolific throughout the warm months. This plant tolerates heat and flowers in the hottest weather, probably better than most other flowering ground covers. Periwinkle will cascade over a wall or container and makes a nice hanging basket. Derivatives from periwinkle are used in a variety of medicines and treatments for human ailments including leukemia and Hodgkin's disease.

**Type:** annual; perennial; herbaceous

**USDA hardiness zones:** 9b through 11

**Uses:** ground cover

**Origin:** not native to Florida

**Height:** 1 to 2 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Plant spacing:** 12 to 18 inches

**Light requirement:** part sun to part shade

**Soil tolerances:** sand; loam; clay; acidic to slightly alkaline

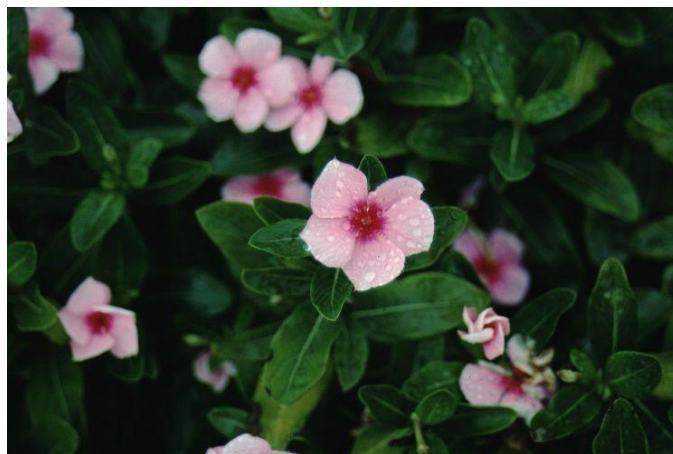
**Drought tolerance:** high

**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**Pest resistance:** very sensitive to one or more pests or diseases

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Photos: UF/IFAS