

**Genus:** *Vinca*  
**Species:** *major/minor*  
**Cultivar:**  
**Family:** Apocynaceae

**Common Name:** Periwinkle/Dwarf Periwinkle

**Origin:** Europe, Eastern United States



Stanford

**Kind of Plant:** Groundcover

**Seasonal Habit:** Evergreen

**Growth Habit:** Spreading

**Height:** *V. major*: 1 ft to 2 ft  
*V. minor*: 4" to 6"

**Width:** Variable

**Light Needs:** Sun-Part Sun-Shade

**Water Needs:** Medium - *V. major*  
Low - *V. major*

**Special Identifying Features**

**Leaves:** Simple, opposite, shiny, dark green, oval to oblong, *V. major* = 3", *V. minor* = ¾" to 1¾". Some forms are variegated with white or yellow.

**Bark/Twig:**

**Flowers:** Lavender-blue, five petaled, pinwheel shape, in leaf joints, in early spring, *V. major* to 2" across, *V. minor* to 1" across, white to deep purple. White flowering forms available.

**Fruit:**

**Disease(s):** Vinca blight

(Refer to Disease and Pest Control chart for treatments.)

**Pest(s):**

**Special Points:** *V. major* is larger and more aggressive. *V. minor* looks like a miniature *V. major*. Best with some shade. Needs generous watering when grown in full sun. Shear close to the ground occasionally to bring on fresh new growth.

**Campus Location:** 1) Mausoleum (*V. major*), 2) East end Hoover Grove (*V. major*), 3) Ford Center (*V. major*), 4) Schwab (*V. minor* 'Sterling Silver'), 5) Bonair Siding (*V. minor*), 6) Tanner fountain (*V. minor*), Amy Blue Garden (*V. minor*)