PERIWINKLE / VINCA

Patuxent — "GROWING TO SERVE YOU"

FACTS

Grow Zone: 4-9, 9-11

Family: Apocynaceae

Genus: Vinca / Catharanthus

Native To: Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia

Mature Height: 4" - 18"

Mature Width: 1' - 10'

Type: Herbaceous vining perennial or annual

Growth Habit: Fast-spreading groundcover, trailing

Foliage: Opposite, simple broad ovate dark green leaves, either evergreen or deciduous

Flowers: Periwinkle, blue, violet, pink, yellow, or while flowers, simple 5 petal structure, blooms in spring

Propagation: Rhizomes

Why We Love Periwinkle:

The color Periwinkle earns its name from the pretty shade of light purple found in some of these spring bloomers, but other colors are available as annuals. Often enjoyed for their durability, versatility, and for their extremely fast-spreading ground cover capabilities, recently gardeners prefer to use these pretty spring blooms in containers and hanging baskets to help control the spread.

LIGHT

Full sun/Partial shade.

The more sun you can give them, the more flowers they will put out.

WATER

Regular watering.

Can tolerate some drought.

Do not water late in the day so soil can dry out before night

SOIL

Sandy loam soil.

At planting, apply compost to soil or slow-release fertilizer.

Feed with 10-10-10 solution once a month.

FYI: Vinca major & Vinca minor are both considered invasive in Maryland, but neither have reached Tier 2 on the invasive species list. They are still considered manageable to control.

INTERESTING VARIETIES:

- *Catharanthus roseus* (formerly *V. rosea*) aka Madagascar Periwinkle
- *Vinca major*
- *Vinca minor*
- *Catharanthus roseus* 'Cooler'
- *Catharanthus roseus* 'Heatwave'
- *Catharanthus roseus* 'Pacifica'
- *Catharanthus roseus* 'Stardust'
- *Vinca minor* 'Alba'
- *Vinca minor* 'Atropurpurea'
- *Vinca minor* 'Miss Jekyll'
- *Vinca minor* 'Moonlit'
- *Vinca major* 'Maculata'
- *Vinca major* 'Variegata'