



WHY CAN'T I FIND VINCA?

When to plant & how to care for Vinca
aka Madagascar Periwinkle.

FOR MORE INFO

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Why?

Vincas, or periwinkles, can be infected with a fungal disease called aerial phytophthora. The disease spreads when the fungal spores in the soil are splashed on the plants when you water or when it rains. Some varieties seem more prone to this common fungus than others.

Symptoms of aerial phytophthora include dull, gray, shriveled foliage and deterioration of the upper stems.

Symptoms develop quickly – especially during rainy weather. You may detect a brown, sunken lesion where the petioles are attached to the stems. When these spots develop, the stem collapses. If rains or overwatering continues, the fungus can spread to the base of the plant and it can die. A severe attack can essentially wipe out an entire planting bed!

How to prevent

- Space transplants at least 10–12 inches apart. Crowded planting limits air circulation and can create conditions more favorable for disease development.
- Mulch with pine straw to decrease splashing of rainfall and irrigation water from soil to the lower stems and foliage. However, avoid excessive mulching to prevent the plant crowns from being continually wet.
- Manage irrigation properly. Vincas require minimal irrigation. Avoid overhead irrigation, when practical. When plants make it through the spring and early summer without disease, hold back irrigation or Alternaria leaf spotting – another fungal disease – may develop heading into fall.
- Don't plant vincas in the same bed year after year.
- Don't plant vincas in beds where Phytophthora blight has been a problem in the past.

Do not plant until May!

Vinca (*Catharanthus roseus*), commonly known as periwinkle, one of the most popular annual bedding plants which originated from Madagascar. It is a tough plant to grow because it requires higher air and substrate temperatures than other annual plants, a low fertility, high porosity substrate, high relative humidity and high light. It is recommended you **DO NOT PLANT** until early May, until the daytime temps are above 90 degrees.