Mediterranean Polka Dot Vinca

Catharanthus roseus 'Mediterranean Polka Dot'



Mediterranean Polka Dot Vinca flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Periwinkle, Vinca Vine

Group/Class: Mediterranean Series

Description:

A beautiful trailing series with lush glossy, dark green foliage and showy vibrant colored blooms; a gorgeous addition to patio containers, hanging baskets and garden beds; a low maintenance selection with excellent heat and drought tolerance

Ornamental Features

Mediterranean Polka Dot Vinca features showy white star-shaped flowers with red eyes at the ends of the stems from late spring to mid fall. Its glossy oval leaves remain dark green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Mediterranean Polka Dot Vinca is a dense herbaceous annual with a trailing habit of growth, eventually spilling over the edges of hanging baskets and containers. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Mediterranean Polka Dot Vinca is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

Planting & Growing

Mediterranean Polka Dot Vinca will grow to be only 6 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Mediterranean Polka Dot Vinca is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. Because of its trailing habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.