Vitesse™ Dark Red Vinca

Catharanthus roseus 'Vitesse Dark Red'



Vitesse Dark Red Vinca flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 16 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Periwinkle, Vinca Vine

Group/Class: Vitesse Series

Description:

A well branched, long flowering series featuring compact, upright-mounded plants; presenting large vibrant blooms, contrasting against deep green glossy foliage; lovely addition to beds, borders and containers; heat and humidity tolerant



Vitesse Dark Red Vinca in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Vitesse Dark Red Vinca features showy dark red star-shaped flowers 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

Vitesse Dark Red Vinca is a dense herbaceous annual with a mounded form. 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.

Vitesse Dark Red Vinca is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Vitesse Dark Red Vinca will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 16 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. 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.

Vitesse Dark Red Vinca is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.