

Bigleaf periwinkle

Vinca major

Description

Introduced to North America as an ornamental plant used for groundcover.

Habit

Herbaceous, perennial, rhizomatous, stoloniferous, evergreen trailing vine, glabrous with a milky juice.

Leaves

Opposite, long-petiolate, ovate to ovate-lanceolate, 3-9 cm long, with fine hairs along the margins, glossy dark green in color with a leathery texture, entire but distinctly ciliate margin.

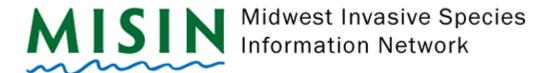
Stems

Woody, slender, trailing, twining, spreading 2-5 m across and 50-70 cm high.

Flowers

Solitary, bluish-purple in color, 3-5 cm wide and about 2 cm long, up to 4 per stem, calyx lobes





ciliate, short bristles on the margins; flowers from early spring to autumn.

Fruits and Seeds

Follicles are 3-5 cm long, long cylindrical pods without tufts of hair.

Habitat

Native to southern Europe and northern Africa. Grows well in moist undergrowth and can be found in woodlands, hedgerows and banks along rivers.

Reproduction

By seed and rhizomes.

Similar

Common Periwinkle (Vinca minor).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate.

Credits

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