

## 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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