

Family:	Apocynaceae	Seed count:	500-800 seeds/gram (12,500-24,000 seeds/oz)
Use:	Outdoor containers, pot and pack, suitable for borders and beds.		Seed count varies by variety and seed lot
Plant type:	Annual	Seed form:	Raw.
Height in pot:	15-20 cm (6-8 in.)		
Garden height:	25-30 cm (10-12 in.) The flower sizes up to 5 cm (2 in.)		

Germination:

Media pH 5.5 to 5.8 Temperature 25°C (77°F)

EC 0.5 - 0.75

Ammonium based fertilizers are not recommended.

Use calcium based fertilizers instead.

Stage 1: radicle emergence

Vinca requires darkness for optimum germination.

Covering the seeds with coarse vermiculite is sufficient.

Light will slow down or even prohibit germination.

Temperature 25°C (77°F) Radicle emerge will occur in 2-4 days. Keep media wet. Vinca is very susceptible to high salt levels in all stages.

Stage 2: expanding stem and cotyledons

Keep media moist. Temperature can be lowered to 23°C (74°F) Under low light conditions supplementary lighting is advised to promote compact, strong seedlings.

Upward cupping of the leaves indicates that media is too dry.

Stage 3: development of first true leaves

Keep media moist Temperature days 20-22°C (68-72°F)
EC 0.5 - 0.75.

Stage 4: finishing/holding stage

Temperature can be dropped to 18-20°C (65-68°F); lower temperatures will result in poor growth and leaf chlorosis.

Growing on:

After 5-6 weeks plants can be transplanted. It will take 9-10 weeks to finish in the pack. Allow an extra 2 weeks for 4-inch pots.

Media: a well-drained, porous media is best to prevent over watering. pH 5.5-5.8. Never over 6.5 EC. 0.75-1.25.

Moisture: allow media to dry between watering, do not allow plants to wilt severely; this will result in yellow leaves and serious setback in growth. Light: Increase total light energy to promote early flowering, daylength extension is not necessary but will promote bud set.

Growth regulators:

Vinca responds to: B-nine, A-rest and Cycocel.

Concentrations vary per region and by season

Bonzi and Sumagic are known for creating leafspot problems in Vinca

Pests:

Spider mites, Thrips and whitefly

Control: common insecticides can be used, check for labelled products

Diseases:

Rhizoctonia, Pythium, Phytophthora, Thielaviopsis

Control: Preventive soil drench can be done after potting. Excessive pesticide use may cause root problems Avoid cool (< 18°C (65 F) and wet conditions.

General:

Vinca needs high temperatures and relatively dry conditions. Do not allow plants to wilt severely. Cool conditions will result in slow development, root problems and slow uptake of nutrients, followed by chlorosis of the leaves. Vinca's are light feeders. Over fertilizing N will result in soft leaf tissue, which is more susceptible to diseases.

The use of ammonium-based fertilizers may result in thin, elongated roots; these are more susceptible to soil born fungi. Vinca is day length neutral and do best in a warm and sunny environment. Avoid overhead watering. Allow foliage to dry during daytime to prevent disease problems.