



The California Invasive Plant Council Student Chapter recommends that you

DON'T PLANT PERIWINKLE



Photos: Bob Case / www.plantright.org

Scientific Name: *Vinca major*

Other Common Names: Big periwinkle, Large periwinkle

Description:

Vinca major is a spreading perennial vine or ground cover (family Apocynaceae) with dark green stems that contain milky latex. Big periwinkle has escaped from garden plantings, and lowers species diversity and disrupts native plant communities. Riparian zones are particularly sensitive.

Biology, Habitat, and Spread:

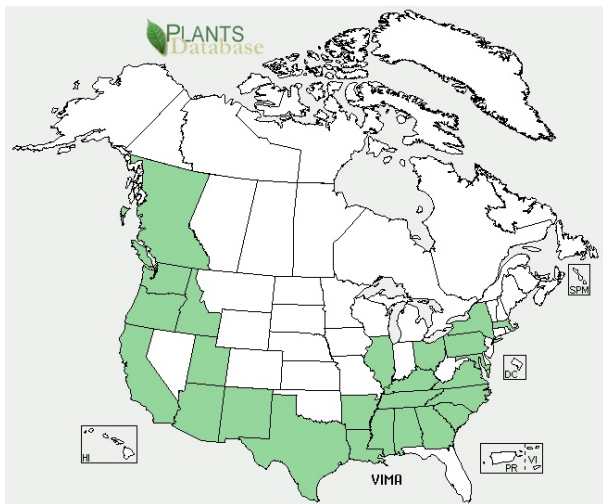
It spreads from stems and is not known to reproduce by seed in California. Water can transport broken stem fragments throughout riparian zones, where the plant's ability to resprout enables it to spread rapidly. In California it is rapidly spreading in most coastal counties, foothill woodlands, the Central Valley, and even desert areas. It has escaped from gardens and old homesteads where it has been used as an ornamental groundcover and is commonly found spreading from moist roadside locations where it has been dumped.

Impact:

Once established, periwinkle forms a dense cover that prevents growth and establishment of other plant species. Periwinkle lowers plant diversity and disrupts native communities. Streamside zones are particularly sensitive. Major infestations at The Nature Conservancy's Ramsey Canyon Preserve in southern Arizona have suppressed natural erosional processes in a creek, promoting deepening and scouring of the creek bed and altering local hydrology and vegetation.

Native Range: Southern Europe

Invaded Range:



Control Methods:

- Manual removal of Vinca should be performed by raising the runners with a rake and mowing them close or digging them out by hand.
- When using an herbicide, the greatest success occurs when plants are first cut, then sprayed. Wounding the plant appears to allow sufficient absorption of the herbicide, which is usually prevented by Vinca's thick waxy cuticle.

Alternatives:



Common Name

Latin Name

Forms lush compact mat 4 to 6 inches high. Glossy dark green leaves, white flowers. Mow or cut back annually to force new growth.

Photo: Santa Barbara Botanic Garden



Common Name

Latin Name

A shrubby evergreen groundcover with glossy green foliage and small, fragrant white flowers. Plants will grow up to 2 feet tall and 10 feet wide; they can grow quite rapidly in areas of full sun and rich soil. Plants can be trained to grow up trellises and fences.

Photo: www.aromaticas.es



Serbian Bellflower

Campanula poscharskyana

It is a perennial with a vigorous growth habit, mounding to eight inches high and spreading. Plants are semi-evergreen in most regions to evergreen in warmer climates. Plants can spread from roots, and can be divided to increase plantings. Flowers appear in spring to early summer on one foot tall stalks.

Photo: Georges Jansoone

References:

California Invasive Plant Council: <http://www.cal-ipc.org>

Invasive Exotic Plant Tutorial: http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/invasivetutorial/periwinkle_M_C

US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service: <http://plants.usda.gov/>

UC Cooperative Extension Fact-sheet: <http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/>