

Catharanthus (Vinca) roseus F1 Solar Avalanche

Life cycle	Annual
Family / Origin	Apocynaceae / India and Sri Lanka
Popular uses	Flowering plant, pots, packs, outdoor mixed containers, landscape, beds, hanging baskets
Mature plant height	20-30 cm (8-12")
Mature plant width	45-55 cm (18-22")
Pot size	10-15 cm (4-6")
Plants per pot	1 plant in 10cm pot 3 plants in 15cm or larger
Sun exposure	Full sun
Water requirements	Normal to reduced
Flowering time	All growing season
Media	A well-drained, porous media is best to prevent over watering pH 5.5– 6.2 EC 0.7-1.5 (105-225 ppm N)
Growing temperature	Start at 22-24°C (72-75°F) Lower the temperature after rooting at 18-22°C (64-72°F) Avoid wet conditions at night
Light	Vinca prefers high light conditions
Fertilizer needs	Well balanced complete fertilizer – avoid ammonia calcium nitrogen as it will promote soft growth and disease susceptibility EC 1.8-2.2 (270-330 ppm N)
Crop time	11-12 weeks for packs and small pots to 18 weeks for a cascading hanging basket
Hardiness zone	Z 10-13



Description

Low-mounded trailing or spreading plant habit, producing large flowers with overlapping petals. Does very well in extreme hot and dry conditions. Ideal for hanging baskets and all type of containers

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

Common Diseases

Botrytis, Rhizoctonia, Pythium, Phytophthora, Thielaviopsis

Common Pests

Thrips, Aphids, Whitefly and Spider Mites

Pinching

No need, but a single pinch to 2-3 leaf pairs is recommended for a better branching; crop time will be 1-2 weeks longer

Plug Production

Seed forms	Raw
Seed count	500-700 seeds/gram (14.000-20.000 seeds/oz); varies by lot!
Recommended plug size	480-264
Seeds cell	1
Vermiculite cover	Coarse
Stage 1 Germination	<p>Germination: 5-6 days Vinca requires darkness for optimum germination Covering the seeds with coarse vermiculite is sufficient Light will slow down or even prohibit germination Media pH 5.5 to 6.3 Moisture: keep medium saturated Growing medium temperature: 25°C (77°F) Fertilizer EC 0.5-1.0 (75-150 ppm N)</p>
Stage 2 Stem and cotyledon	<p>Reduce moisture levels to obtain optimum root penetration and to prevent fungal diseases Prevent wet foliage after nightfall Growing medium temperature: 22-24°C (72-75°F) Fertilizer levels: EC 0.5-1.0 (75-150 ppm N) After germination: 25.000-30.000 Lux (2.320 to 2.790 fc)</p>
Stage 3 Growth and development	<p>Reduce moisture levels and allow medium to dry somewhat between watering, but do not allow plants to wilt Temperature: 20-22°C (68-72°F) Fertilizer levels: EC 1.5-1.8 (225-270 ppm N) Keep light levels high</p>
Stage 4 Ready for transplanting	<p>Reduce moisture levels and allow medium to dry somewhat between watering, but do not allow plants to wilt Temperature: 18-20°C (64-68°F) Fertilizer levels: see stage 3 Lightning: 50.000 Lux (4.650 fc); 12-14 hours</p>
Plug crop time	5-6 weeks
Approximate finish time	6-12 weeks
Special tips	<p>Vinca (Catharanthus) is a plant that likes a high light intensity Seedlings will benefit from supplemental lighting and warm temperatures both at day and night during production Be careful not to overwater</p>

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