

Catharanthus (Vinca) roseus F1 Solar

Life cycle	Annual
Family / Origin	Apocynaceae / India and Sri Lanka
Popular uses	Flowering plant, pots, packs, outdoor mixed containers, landscape, beds
Mature plant height	20-30 cm (8-12")
Mature plant width	20-30 cm (8-12")
Pot size	Packs, 10-15 cm (4-6") pots and larger
Plants per pot	1 plant in 10 cm pot 3 plants in 15 cm 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 14 weeks for larger pots
Hardiness zone	Z 10-13



Description

A compact and sturdy plant habit, strongly basal branching and large flowers with overlapping petals

Growth regulators

Vinca responds to: Daminozide (Dazide or B-nine) and Chlormequat (Cycocel)

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>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 levels: 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 (2.320-2.790 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 1.2-1.5 (180-225 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	5-8 weeks
Special tips	<p>F1 Solar is less susceptible to diseases. Applying good growing techniques helps prevent many problems Vincas are light feeders. Over-fertilization of N will result in soft leaf tissue, which is more susceptible to diseases The use of ammonium-based fertilizers can lead to thin, elongated roots; these are more susceptible to soil born fungi Vinca is day length neutral and thrives best in a warm and sunny environment Avoid overhead water; allow the foliage to dry during the day to avoid disease problems</p>

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