

Catharanthus (Vinca) roseus Heatwave

Life cycle	Annual
Family / Origin	Apocynaceae / India and Sri Lanka
Popular uses	Flowering plant, pots, packs, outdoor mixed containers, landscape, beds
Mature plant height	20-25 cm (8-10")
Mature plant width	20-25 cm (8-10")
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 (100-225 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 Cal 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

An open-pollinated summer-hardy annual with a dwarf plant habit, glossy green leaves and large attractive flowers. It tolerates extreme hot, dry and full sun conditions and blooms all season long

Growth regulators

Vinca responds to: B-nine, A-rest and Cycocel. Concentrations vary by region and season. Bonzi and Sumagic are known for causing leafspot problems in Vinca

Common Diseases

Botrytis, Rhizoctonia, Pythium, Phytophthora, Thielaviopsis

Common Pests

Thrips, Aphids, Whitefly and Spider Mites

Pinching

Not necessary, but a single pinch is recommended for 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) 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 (70-75°F) Fertilizer levels: EC 0.7-1.2 (105-180 ppm) After germination: 25.000-30.000 lux (2.320-2.790 fc)</p>
Stage 3 Growth and development	<p>Moisture: 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>Moisture: 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>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>