The Mustard Seed
Landscaping & Garden Centers

Bowles Periwinkle

Vinca minor 'Bowles'

Plant Height: 4 inches

Flower Height: 6 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Common Periwinkle, Creeping Myrtle

Description:

One of the very best groundcovers for deep shade, featuring showy violet-blue flowers held over lustrous dark green evergreen foliage; does well in sun or deep shade, quickly forms a dense mat, even grows well under mature trees

Ornamental Features

Bowles Periwinkle has masses of beautiful violet flowers along the stems from mid spring to early summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its small glossy oval leaves remain dark green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Bowles Periwinkle is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.



Bowles Periwinkle flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Bowles Periwinkle in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

10,000 Great Plains Blvd. Chaska, MN 55318 952-445-6555
www.TheMustardSeedInc.com contactus@themustardseedinc.com
...the birds of the air can perch in its shade. Mark 4:30-32

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This is a high maintenance plant that will require regular care and upkeep, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Bowles Periwinkle is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting



Bowles Periwinkle foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Bowles Periwinkle will grow to be only 4 inches tall at maturity extending to 6 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant performs well in both full sun and full shade. However, you may want to keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Bowles Periwinkle is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.