

Lesser Periwinkle

Vinca minor



Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Magnoliophyta
Class : Magnoliopsida
Order: Gentianales
Family : Apocynaceae
Genre: *Vinca*
Species: ***V. minor***

The lesser periwinkle is a perennial herb of the typical forest floor, where it forms extensive carpets evergreens. 10-15 cm high, has a creeping habit and covering. The flowers appear between March and May, and are characterized by a blue-violet, periwinkle blue-known fact.

The Flowers



The flowers bloom on stalks 1 - 1.5 cm armpit of short branches ascending. The corolla consists of 5 petals of a distinctive blue color periwinkle with the apex obliquely truncated.

The leaves



The leaves are opposite, leathery and briefly petiolate. The shape from lanceolate or ovate-lanceolate to elliptical, 1.5 to 4.5 to 5 cm long with dark-green and glossy on the upper side, lighter on the bottom, rib detected on both pages, more marked on lower.

Fruit

The fruit is composed of two (sometimes one, abortion dick) follicles slightly divergent, subcylindrical in shape and bearing a small apical beak, brownish at maturity, and 20-25 mm long.

Curiosities

Lesser Periwinkle is considered a toxic plant for its content in vincristina. Symptoms: nausea, vomiting and fever, and those late, consist of headaches, insomnia, delirium, hallucinations, nerve damage, convulsions and coma. The periwinkle has different properties and uses in herbal medicine and the best known are: diuretic, astringent, digestive, hypotensive. For external use has anti-inflammatory properties and the leaves have anti-inflammatory properties, useful in skin disorders, for pimples and eczema.