

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Ralph Shugert periwinkle: fine white leaf edges in a shady border

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AI-created garden scene of one young plant based on the original reference. The selected set determines quantity; surroundings and accessories are not included.

Grow with knowledge.

A collection for observation and reference. Detailed explanations to help you make care decisions suited to your plant and its position.

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PLANT PORTRAIT

Vinca minor 'Ralph Shugert'

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Botanical name	Vinca minor 'Ralph Shugert'
Delivery size	Each 9-cm pot · approx. 10-25 cm total height · sets according to selection
Habit	Perennial evergreen ground cover; creeping shoots can root
Leaf colour	Dark green with narrow irregular white edges
Flower colour	Light blue to blue-violet
Flowering period	Mainly April and May; occasional repeat flowers possible until September
Expected height	Around 15-20 cm above ground; account for sideways spread
Planting time	Spring or early autumn in frost-free, unwaterlogged soil
Planting distance	Shop guidance: 25-30 cm, around 11-16 plants per m²
Position	Partial shade to shade; humus-rich, well-drained soil

Care at a glance

Observe, check and adapt care to the position and season. This table provides guidance for everyday practice.

Topic	What to do	Why it helps
Light	Choose partial shade or shade in the garden.	Fine pale edges need no hot midday sun to be visible.
Planting	Set the moistened ball at its previous height in loose soil.	Deeply buried shoot bases and compacted soil make establishment harder.
Water	Check directly around the small ball while establishing and water as needed.	A dry 9-cm ball is not automatically supplied by damp soil beside it.
Soil	Provide humus-rich soil with good water outflow.	Shade and waterlogging are different position conditions.
Feed	Supply moderately in spring as needed following the label.	More feed corrects neither drought nor blocked drainage.
Pruning	Selectively remove dead shoots and unwanted extensions.	Ground contact allows long shoots to form new rooting points.
Winter	Keep containers sheltered outdoors; check ball moisture in frost-free weather.	Evergreen leaves may lose water while the small potted ball is cold.
Safety	Do not use as an edible plant; keep children and pets from nibbling it.	Periwinkle belongs as an ornamental in the border, not the kitchen or feeding bowl.

Knowledge that grows

A fine line makes the difference

Ralph Shugert looks quieter than a cultivar with large yellow leaf areas. Dark green remains the main colour; a narrow irregular white line traces the small oval leaves. They sit opposite on slender shoots. Close up there is a clear rhythm of leaf pairs, farther away a pale fringe in the green. In spring, light-blue to blue-violet flowers open with five slightly twisted lobes. They do not stand like large bowls above a bush but are scattered between leaves. An edge beside old stones or beneath airy shrub foliage can accommodate this quiet effect well.

Plan the area before the shoots find it

A developed planting stays around 15 to 20 cm above the ground but gains space sideways. Young shop offers each stand in a 9-cm pot; roughly 10 to 25 cm total height includes that pot. Do not confuse this delivery figure with later garden height. For planning coverage, the shop gives 25 to 30 cm distance. Arrange the pots loosely before planting and check space from paths and small neighbouring perennials. A dense carpet forms only after rooting in. It is neither present when unpacked nor a firm promise for the first season.

Beneath a crown, shade also needs attention

Partial shade to shade suits this cultivar. Under shrubs, soil may still stay dry because roots take up water and leaves intercept rain. Check below the surface at the planting point and plan how to reach the small ball later. Loosen compacted soil without injuring large roots of existing woody plants. A humus-rich structure helps establishment but standing water must still drain away. A shaded garden spot is no wet hollow. At exposed sites strong sunshine can burden foliage, particularly on frozen winter soil; a sheltered position makes care easier.

Watch establishment at the root ball

Spring and early autumn often offer favourable conditions while soil is frost-free and not waterlogged. Slowly moisten a dry potted ball before removing its pot. Hold the plant by the ball, plant at its previous height, settle the soil and water gently. Afterwards do not just look at the border surface: check precisely around the former pot ball for remaining moisture. Water thoroughly as needed and let it soak in. Warm windy days call for more frequent checks than cool rainy weeks. Only new roots in surrounding soil give access to greater reserves; until then the small delivery ball remains crucial.

Spring flowers without a continuous-flowering promise

Flowering centres on April and May. Individual flowers may appear later until September, but that means no constantly blue carpet. Light, weather and development change the impression. A young plant with healthy foliage and no open flowers is therefore not automatically poorly cared for. Compare leaf shape and fine edging with the original photograph. Heavy additional feeding alone forces no suitable flowering. First observe new growth and root supply. Outside flowering in particular, the leaf pattern remains the reason to look closely at this cultivar: small pale outlines rather than a large colour block.

Deliberately tend the garden edge

Long shoots can root where they lie on the ground. Do not let them disappear unnoticed between small perennials or travel far beyond the intended boundary. Lift an unwanted section early together with its rooting point before several new connections form. Selectively remove dead material in spring; healthy leaf mass needs no blanket cut. Feed moderately as needed, accounting for already nourished soil. As an ornamental, periwinkle does not belong in food or animal feed. Its lovely low shape also does not mean spread and water needs will always perfectly match the garden plan without checking.

In a container it remains a garden plant

A broad bowl with open drainage holes can display the pale leaf margins but needs regular moisture checking. The small sale pot is no spacious permanent home. With a densely rooted ball, move into a suitable larger container or plant in a border. Keep sheltered outdoors in winter and remove collected saucer water. On frost-free days check for dryness without soaking a frozen ball. Assess individual brown leaves together with weather and root condition. In spring, fresh shoots show which parts live; this is more useful than a hasty complete cut.

Pictures and details

Images and descriptions from this portrait. Decorative items are not included in the offer.



AI-created detail of later garden development. Flowers and adult form are not guaranteed delivery features.



Original shop photograph of a young plant. Each 9-cm pot, approx. 10–25 cm total height; quantity according to set.

Good to know

What distinguishes Ralph Shugert from yellow-variegated cultivars?

Small dark-green leaves have a narrow white edge. Large yellow patterns are not typical of this cultivar.

Is this cultivar perennial?

Yes, a perennial evergreen ground cover. Side shoots can form roots at ground contact.

How tall is a developed planting?

Around 15–20 cm above the ground. Delivery height of approx. 10–25 cm, however, includes the sale pot.

When do blue flowers appear?

Mainly April and May. Occasional later flowers are possible, but not lasting flower coverage.

How close should set plants be planted?

The shop gives 25–30 cm as guidance. Small neighbours and clear path edges need additional room.

Does little sun mean little watering?

No. A shaded planting point beneath woody plants may be dry. Check moisture at the ball.

The matching offer

[Plant in the shop](#)

Product and delivery details are given in the individual offer.

[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer