

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Variegated periwinkle: pale leaf edges and long green stems

Variegata outlines every leaf with a cream edge. Greater periwinkle looks bright and lively even without flowers, but later also lays long stems across the ground. A good start with water and controlled bed edges help turn young set plants into a suitable garden planting.



AI-created garden scene based on the original shop photo of a young plant. Each plant: 9 cm nursery pot and approximately 10–25 cm according to the offer. Cachepot, garden workbench and decoration not included; quantity set according to the chosen offer.

Grow with knowledge.

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

Issue October 2026

PLANT PORTRAIT

Vinca major 'Variegata'

Variegated periwinkle: pale leaf edges and long green stems

Variegata outlines every leaf with a cream edge. Greater periwinkle looks bright and lively even without flowers, but later also lays long stems across the ground. A good start with water and controlled bed edges help turn young set plants into a suitable garden planting.



AI-created garden scene based on the original shop photo of a young plant. Each plant: 9 cm nursery pot and approximately 10-25 cm according to the offer. Cachepot, garden workbench and decoration not included; quantity set according to the chosen offer.

Botanical name	Vinca major 'Variegata'
Lifespan	Perennial evergreen ground cover
Expected height	Up to about 45 cm; long stems continue to spread outwards
Delivery size	Each plant: 9 cm pot · approximately 10-25 cm
Flowering time	Possible from spring to autumn, not guaranteed continuously
Flower colour	Violet-blue; green leaves with cream edges
Planting time	Spring or suitable frost-free autumn
Plant spacing	About 30-35 cm; approximately 8-11 plants per m² according to the shop
Position	Partial shade, shade or sun with suitable soil moisture

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 bright partial shade as a good starting point.	The pale leaf pattern is visible even without especially abundant flowers.
Soil	Prepare humus-rich soil with suitable moisture and drainage.	The root zone should not dry completely while establishing.
Planting	Pre-moisten the root ball, plant at its previous height and water well.	The young plant initially starts with a small root zone.
Spacing	Leave about 30–35 cm centre to centre as offer guidance.	Long stems connect individual planting positions over time.
Water	Check root-ball moisture particularly after planting and in containers.	An older garden planting and a small nursery pot have different water buffers.
Stems	Limit overreaching and rooted stems at the bed edge.	Variegata can grow well beyond its original position.
Foliage	Remove vigorous completely green reverted shoots at the base if they appear.	They should not displace the cultivar's cream-edged pattern.
Division	Divide healthy larger plantings in spring or autumn as needed.	Rooted pieces can renew the planting or start one elsewhere.

Knowledge that grows

A pale edge on every leaf

With Variegata, the effect does not begin with flowering. Green leaves are surrounded by a cream edge, sometimes narrower and sometimes broader. Light catches these pale parts and traces the long stems. A garden workbench shows a young plant's growth particularly well: some stems initially stand upright while others already bend sideways. Leaves remain simple and oval-pointed; they are not lobed ivy leaves. The specific offer contains young plants in 9 cm pots, approximately 10–25 cm tall. The cachepot in the scene is only part of the presentation.

The plant becomes wider than its nursery pot

Alongside upright flowering stems, greater periwinkle forms long trailing stems. Where these rest on soil, they can form new roots. Variegata may reach about 45 cm high; outward spread is often more important in the garden. I would therefore not plan its space solely from the small delivery root ball. A larger group can look pleasant beneath a loosely leafed tree. Between fine small perennials, however, it needs a controlled edge. An initially delicate young plant will not automatically stay in the same small spot for years.

Pale leaves do not suit just any planting position

The leaf pattern makes Variegata interesting for shaded garden areas. Bright partial shade is a good start; shade and sunnier places are also possible. Light matters for more abundant flowers, while in deep shade the foliage carries more of the design. Beneath trees, I mainly check the soil. Dense roots and dry patches may meet there even though the surroundings look shaded. A new set plant still needs water. Sun is also not simply equivalent to dry soil. Only when light, soil and provision fit together can you see how the plant grows in its actual position.

Set size makes sense when laid out on the area

The offer gives approximately 30–35 cm spacing and eight to eleven plants per square metre as guidance. Before planting, I put the small pots on the prepared area. This shows where the group should connect a shrub planting and where a path or neighbouring perennial must remain clear. A suitable frost-free planting time helps the start. The root ball is moistened, set at its previous height and watered well. Soil must contact the pot root ball. Small plants in particular should not be buried deeply just to obtain an apparently flatter planting on the first day.

Violet-blue flowers suit the cream foliage

When the plant flowers, violet-blue complements the pale leaf edges. Individual flowers have five pinwheel-like lobes and sit among the leaves. Flowering is possible from spring to autumn, but is not guaranteed for every day or every young delivery plant. For me, the foliage therefore remains the more reliable starting point for the design. Ordering Variegata only as a particularly densely flowering carpet can easily create expectations different from its real garden growth. The planting may also spend a period without many flowers. Long stems and pale markings still show why this cultivar was chosen.

Care for the edge and recognise green reversions

I look regularly at the long stems along bed edges. What is wanted in an open area may grow into the next small perennial. Overreaching stems can be cut back appropriately; pieces already rooted need targeted removal. Occasionally a variegated plant may form completely green reverted shoots. In Variegata, these would change the pale cultivar pattern within a group. I remove such distinctly green vigorous stems at the base rather than shortening only their tips. The aim is not to fight every small natural variation in leaf margins, but to recognise clearly different vigorous growth.

Care in a pot is more confined than in a bed

A young plant can be displayed in a container before planting or grown on there temporarily. Its small root ball then needs especially attentive water checks. Water must not remain permanently in the cachepot, and the root ball should not dry out unnoticed. In winter, evergreen foliage stays visible but may bear marks of weather and position. A whole weak plant therefore needs a different assessment from a few older leaves. In spring, troublesome stems can be organised and healthy larger plantings divided as needed. Rooted pieces then begin their own establishment watering again, even if they came from an older garden planting.

Pictures and details

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



Unchanged original view of one young plant from the quantity set.

Good to know

Is Variegata ivy?

No. It is Vinca major with simple oval-pointed leaves, not Hedera with typically lobed leaves.

What colour are the flowers?

Violet-blue. The conspicuous cream colour belongs to the leaf edge.

Is the plant perennial?

Yes, greater periwinkle is a perennial evergreen ground cover.

How tall does the cultivar grow?

Up to about 45 cm; trailing stems can spread much further.

How much spacing do the sets need?

The offer specifies about 30–35 cm, or roughly eight to eleven plants per square metre.

What should I do with completely green stems?

Remove a clearly vigorous green reversion at the base so it does not displace the patterned cultivar.

Is the terracotta pot included?

No. Cachepot and workbench are part of the AI-created scene. The chosen quantity set in the shop is what matters.

The matching offer

[View offer](#)

Check the selected shop offer for price, availability and delivery contents.

[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer