

Arkansas Diamonds Plants: (*Catharanthus roseus* Cora® Cascade ‘Polka Dot’)

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General Information

Catharanthus roseus Cora® Cascade ‘Polka Dot’

Scientific Name: *Catharanthus roseus*

Pronunciation: kath-uh-RAN-thus
ROH-zee-us

Common Name: Vinca; Madagascar
Periwinkle

Family: *Apocynaceae*

Plant Type: Summer herbaceous
annual

Uses: Mass plantings; cascading
containers; hanging baskets; borders

USDA Hardiness Zones: 10 – 11;
grown as an annual in Arkansas

Origin: Native to Madagascar

Availability: Widely available in the
trade

Description

Height: 6 – 10” tall

Spread: 24 – 36” (trailing)

Plant Habit/Form: Trailing; spreading

Growth Rate: Fast

Texture: Medium

Catharanthus roseus ‘Polka Dot’



Flowers

Color: White with a bright pink eye

Flower Value to Gardener: Continuous
bloom through summer heat; showy
flowers with vibrant contrast

Bloom Time: Late spring through frost

Shape: Flat

Petals: 5 petals

Size: 1 – 2” across

Description: Bright white blooms
with a vivid rose-pink center
provide season-long interest and
contrast beautifully with green
foliage

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Leaves

Color: Glossy green

Feel: Smooth

Shape: Ovate

Length: 1 – 2”

Description: Simple, opposite leaves with a leathery texture and a pronounced central vein

Culture

Light Requirement: Full Sun (6 or more hours of direct sunlight a day)

Soil Tolerances: Well-drained soils essential; thrives in heat and humidity

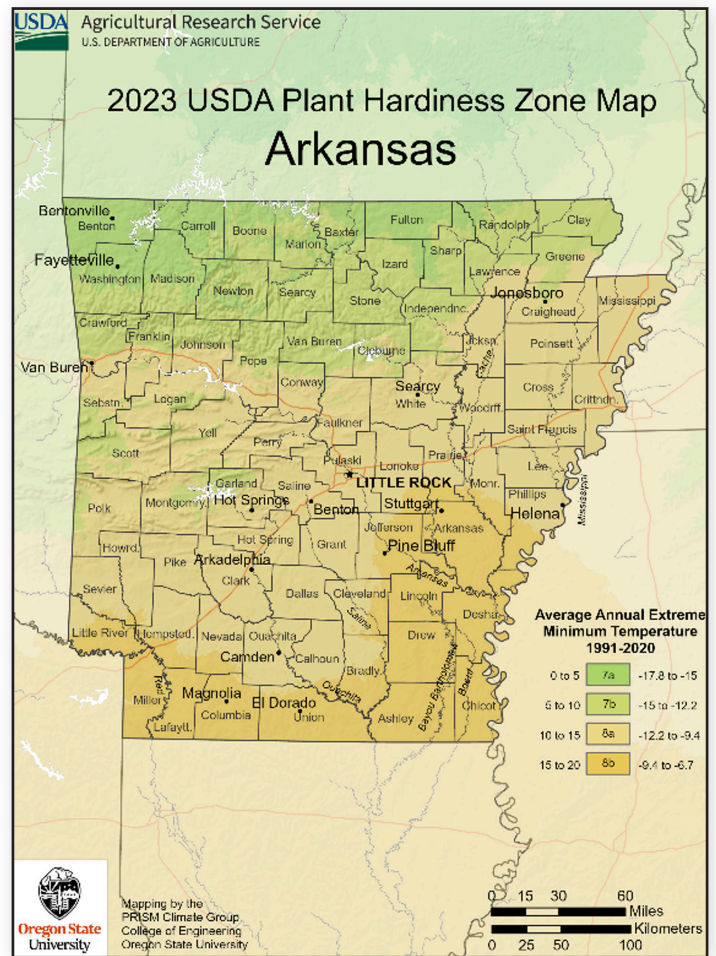
Drought Tolerance: High, once established

Plant spacing: 18 – 24 inches

Use and Management

Cora® Cascade Polka Dot Vinca is a top performer in Arkansas summer gardens, particularly where heat and humidity challenge other annuals. The trailing habit makes it ideal for cascading containers, window boxes, and raised beds. Resistant to aerial Phytophthora, a common disease in vinca, it requires little maintenance beyond watering during extended dry spells. Avoid overwatering or

Figure 1: USDA Hardiness Zones represented in Arkansas.



poorly drained soils, which can cause root rot.

All parts of the plant may be toxic if ingested, so care should be taken around pets and small children.

