

Periwinkle (*Vinca minor* L.) - a plant species belonging to the family Apocynaceae. Is a perennial and blooms from March to May. Its flowers are pollinated by bees and butterflies, and ants are spreading its seeds. Periwinkle reproduce vegetatively too. It grows in deciduous forests and well put up with shading. Usually occurs in the fertile soil that is rich in calcium and acid soils. It grows wild in western, eastern, southern and central Europe, but absent in Scandinavia. *Vinca* is the only species occurring in Poland in the wild (rare). It occurs almost throughout the lowlands. In the mountains it is found less frequently than in the lowlands.

Fot.1



Periwinkle is falling in Poland, partly protected species, and is in danger because of their decorative value. Indeed it is often dug from natural to planted as an ornamental plant. The whole plant in general is slightly poisonous. Symptoms of poisoning are: zmniejszenie blood pressure, the destruction of the heart and breathing. It is used as an ornamental plant and medicinal plant. The material from the periwinkle herb lowers blood pressure, it is used also in cases of bleeding, inflammation of mucous membranes and in the treatment of eczema.

Fot.2



External Description: Small, green shrub reaching a height of 20 cm. Its woody stems at the bottom, placing and anchoring. Reach a length of up to 1 m. Stems erect flower, raised .. Foliage is opposite, leathery, entire edges, elliptical, dark green and glossy, to 5 cm long, krótkoogonkowe. Flowers and blue or pale violet, bisexual, with a diameter of about 2.5 cm, which grow singly in the axils of leaves. The cup is pięciodzielną flower, much shorter than the crown. Crown of funnel tube is stretched out flat petals and five stamens adnate to corolla tube, the column on top of quite thick.

Pic.1 comes from the

http://www.ibles.pl/strona_glowna/image/Barwinek.JPG/view

pic.2 comes from the <http://eko.chrzanow.pl/index.php?id=4767>