

# Catharanthus roseus

## COMMON NAMES

tropical periwinkle, Madagascar periwinkle

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

An annual with pink or white flowers (Landcare Research 1999).

## GENUS

Catharanthus

## FAMILY

Apocynaceae

## AUTHORITY

Catharanthus roseus (L.) G.Don

## SYNONYMS

Vinca rosea

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## YEAR NATURALISED

1910

## ORIGIN

Madagascar

## POISONOUS PLANT

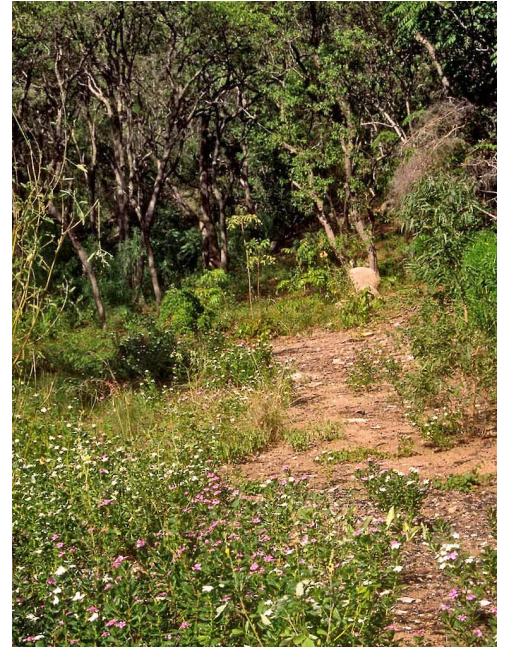
This plant is very poisonous if eaten and can be hallucinogenic although used as a medicinal plant. In China it is used to treat diabetes and malaria.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/catharanthus-roseus/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026



Magnetic Island, Queensland (foreground). Dec 1995. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.