



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Scabiosa atropurpurea*¹

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Introduction

Pincushion Flower forms a wonderful, aster-like flower atop a 12-inch-tall herbaceous perennial (Fig. 1). The deep pink flowers appear during the warm months.

General Information

Scientific name: *Scabiosa atropurpurea*

Pronunciation: skay-bee-OH-suh at-roe-per-POOR-ree-uh

Common name(s): Pincushion Flower, Sweet Scabiosa

Family: *Dipsacaceae*

Plant type: annual

USDA hardiness zones: all zones (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: Jun; Jul

Planting month for zone 8: May; Jun; Jul; Aug

Planting month for zone 9: Apr; May; Jun; Jul; Aug; Sep

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: Feb; Mar; Apr; May; Jun; Jul; Aug; Sep; Oct; Nov; Dec

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: border; mass planting

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

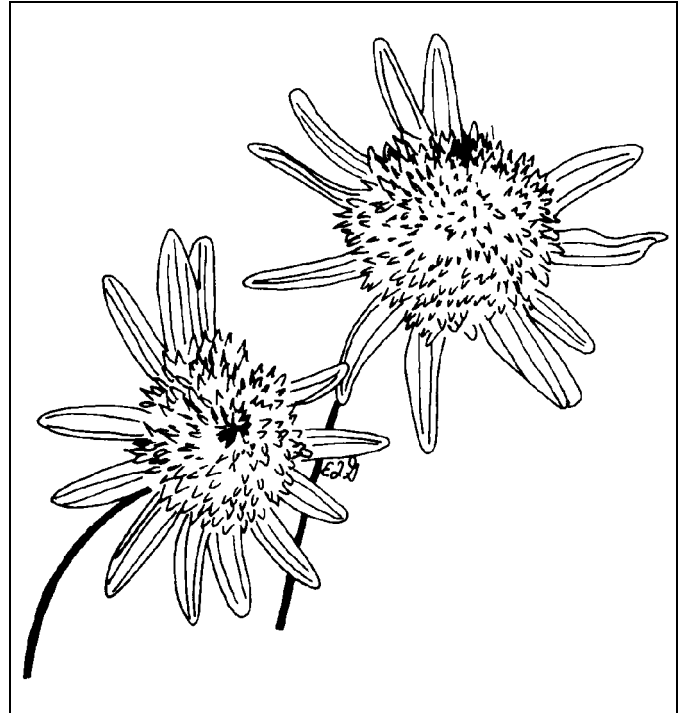


Figure 1. Pincushion Flower.

Description

Height: 1 to 3 feet

Spread: 1 to 2 feet

Plant habit: upright

Plant density: open

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: most emerge from the soil, usually without a stem

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: parted

Leaf shape: spatulate

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-537, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October, 1999 Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf venation: pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: not applicable
Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: not applicable
Fall characteristic: not applicable

Flower

Flower color: pink
Flower characteristic: showy; summer flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: no fruit
Fruit length: no fruit
Fruit cover: no fruit
Fruit color: not applicable
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable
Current year stem/twig color: not applicable
Current year stem/twig thickness: thick

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun
Soil tolerances: acidic; sand; loam; clay
Drought tolerance:
Soil salt tolerances: unknown
Plant spacing: 12 to 18 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: not applicable
Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Pests and Diseases There are no major problems.